



April 7, 2017

**House Committee on Health Care**  
**Support House Bill 2310 — Implementing Public Health Modernization**

Oregon's 34 local public health departments focus on protecting children and families by preparing for, preventing and responding to illnesses and injuries caused by a variety of factors. We are submitting this letter to support HB 2310 and funding to implement the first phase of Public Health Modernization.

The Washington County Public Health Advisory Council supports HB 2310 with an amendment that will include the recommendations for 2017-19 implementation made by the Public Health Advisory Board to implement aspects of the Communicable Disease and Environmental Health Foundational Programs and Assessment and Epidemiology, Leadership and Health Equity Foundation Capabilities. These areas build off of current capacity with a focus to greater accountability to improving health outcomes.

To do this, Oregon's public health system needs funding. We simply cannot afford to leave our public health departments underfunded and without adequate public health infrastructure until a horrific epidemic, disaster or outbreak occurs. Supporting public health will ensure fair opportunities for health and eliminate gaps in health outcomes, slow the spread of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Syphilis and other communicable diseases, improve childhood immunization rates, and increase community capacity to identify and respond to environmental health hazards.

The Washington County Public Health Advisory Council is a multi-sector advisory council appointed by the Washington County Board of Commissioners. Through participation on the Council we understand the importance of equitable public health services. We serve to promote community understanding of policies and programs and ensure quality and effective public health services for our community. Redefining and expanding the work and expectations of public health can help improve the conditions that create opportunities for health and improve health outcomes for Washington County residents.

The work of Oregon's local public health departments is essential to the health of communities across our state. Washington County Department of Health and Human Services urges your support of House Bill 2310.

Sincerely,

Rachel Parker  
Washington County Public Health Advisory Council, Chair

Melanie Henriksen, ND, LAc, CNM  
Washington County Public Health Advisory Council, Vice-Chair

