



**Association of
Oregon Counties**

DATE: April 7, 2017
TO: House Health Care Committee
FROM: Stacy Michaelson, Association of Oregon Counties
SUBJECT: HB 2310

Chair Greenlick, Members of the Committee:

For the record, I'm Stacy Michaelson, Policy Manager with the Association of Oregon Counties. As most of you are likely aware, Oregon's counties are your partners in the public health system, having statutory responsibility to act as the local public health authority. As such, our members invest a great deal, proportionally, into their public health departments and programs, and they take their role very seriously. That's why I'm here today in support of HB 2310.

We are a few years into this conversation around public health modernization now, and our members have been watching very closely and participating when able, as exemplified by Commissioner Tammy Baney having chaired the task force on the future of public health. This has been an exciting time as it has elevated the discussion about public health and highlighted the lack of resources that we, as a state, have been investing compared to others – and the impact that has had on our service delivery. Our members see this discussion as an opportunity to look at what has been working well, where there are areas of improvement, and where efficiencies and cost savings can be found.

AOC supported HB 3100 during the 2015 session and we have been working closely with the Oregon Health Authority, the Coalition of Local Health Officials, other county partners in the interim to work on language for HB 2310. We recognized that there were areas of HB 3100 that needed further clarification, and that some of the implementation language needed to be modified to better reflect the discussions and vision of the Public Health Advisory Board regarding modernization. We are awaiting further amendments that we believe will better address some of these issues, but conceptually we support HB 2310. We understand that this bill will carry a fiscal, and while we support the minimum of \$30 million that was originally requested by the agency for this work, we recognized that the full cost of modernization is greater, but we will do as much as we can with the resources we are allocated. We also know that the ultimate decision regarding that funding will occur in the Ways & Means Committee, and understand that the final figure is likely to be adjusted in some manner. We think that is the appropriate venue to have that funding conversation.

We appreciate all of your work on this effort, and encourage your continued support via an aye vote on HB 2310. Thank you.

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