



March 26, 2019

Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair Nosse, and Members of the Committee,

RE: Children First for Oregon supports SB 5525

Children First represents the interests of Oregon's nearly 875,000 children and believes that together, with communities and leaders across the state, we can build a state where all children thrive. Through the development of the Children's Agenda we work with our more than 110 partner organizations to identify and elevate legislative concepts that will support the needs of Oregon's children.

Robust public health infrastructure and programs is critical for health and safety of Oregon's children and families, and several sections of the Public Health budget in SB 5525 are on the 2019 Children's Agenda.

We urge your support of POP 405: **Public Health Modernization** as part of SB 5525. This investment in the foundational programs and capabilities for State, Local, and Tribal Public Health will help ensure that every family and community in Oregon has the same communicable disease and environmental health protections as we move Public Health moves into the 21st century. This policy package will allow us to

- Build on the 2017-19 investment
- Improve health equity
- Modernize data collection and reporting
- Fill disease investigation gap
- Increase immunization rates
- Reduce STIs

It is critical to continue the work that has already been started to build a modern Public Health to meet the needs of our families and communities.

Children First supports SB 5525. Thank you very much for your attention and service.

Sincerely,

Chris Coughlin
Legislative Director