



March 17, 2021

**Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee on Education**

Re: Public University Venture Development Fund (HB 2441)

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs Neron and Weber and members of the committee:

I write today to ask for your support of HB 2441, which renews the University Venture Development Fund (UVDF) tax credit program. The UVDF program helps promising university discoveries move out of the lab and into Oregon's economy. In fact, through the UVDF program, I was able to advance two technology innovations toward commercialization.

On the first project, UVDF funding allowed us to demonstrate the feasibility of industrial production of our additive that improves dental restorative materials by making the fillings twice as strong, and significantly less prone to infiltration at the margin. The data generated from then allowed us to pursue licensing agreements with two manufacturers.

The second project received UVDF support to further develop an incipient technology, which is geared to producing antibacterial materials and will selectively reduce dental plaque around a dental filling. Having further developed the technology, we are better positioned to generate preliminary data in pursuit of bringing in larger federal grants with a focus in commercialization (SBIR/STTR). Along with innovation education efforts at the University level, these funds foster an entrepreneurship mindset for the benefit of all Oregonians.

UVDF is a unique program that fills a critical need. There are not currently other programs that provide for similar funding into early-stage proof-of-concept projects or entrepreneurial education and opportunities for faculty, students and others to gain experience in the commercialization of research. Without UVDF to support early-stage commercialization out of OHSU, and our fellow Oregon universities, Oregon will be less able to contribute and compete in the global innovation economy.

I support extending the UVDF program and urge your support as well. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carmen S. Pfeifer".

**Carmem S. Pfeifer, DDS, PhD  
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