

# OREGON COALITION OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

**March 23, 2021**  
**House Health Care Committee**  
**CLHO Supports HB 2965**

Chair Prusak and Members of the House Health Care Committee:

My name is Morgan Cowling and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials which represents the 33 local public health authorities who work every day to prevent the spread of disease, protect the public's health and promote healthy communities. The Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials worked with Representative Nosse to introduce HB 2965 to ensure the time needed to continue implementing public health modernization across Oregon. We urge the committee to support the bill.

HB 2965 does one thing and one thing only. It changes the date that local public health authorities have to submit their public health modernization plan for implementing the model that was created in law from 2023 to 2025.

To share the history, in 2015, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 3100 which created a new framework for governmental public health in Oregon, known as Public Health Modernization. HB 3100 adopted the entire model into Oregon Revised Statutes but didn't provide any funding for implementation. The bill outlined processes and timelines for a public health modernization assessment to define gaps and needs between the old public health system and a modernized public health system. HB 3100 required a phased-in approach for implementing public health modernization across the public health system with all local public health authorities implementing the model by December 31, 2023. In 2017, HB 2310 made some limited changes to the language requiring public health modernization implementation plans but did not change the date.

We continue to work with the Ways and Means Committee, and national partners including, the National Association of City County Health Officials and the National Public Health Center for Innovation on funding for this model.

I am happy to answer any questions. We look forward to your support of HB 2965.

Thank you.



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