



OREGON ACADEMY OF  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS  
**MAKING HEALTH PRIMARY**

March 3, 2023

Chairman Deb Patterson  
Oregon State Senate  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Vice Chair Cedric Hayden  
Oregon State Senate  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senators Patterson and Hayden,

We urge you to support SB 490, which will fund the Oregon Residency Collaborative Alliance for Family Medicine.

The Collaborative has been in operation since 2019 as a program of the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians. It provides peer-to-peer support for program directors and faculty, and technical and marketing assistance, as well as curriculum development, for Oregon's eight Family Medicine Residency sites.

Though capacity for training future family physicians has grown in recent years, Oregon is not producing enough primary care clinicians to take care of aging and increasingly diverse population.<sup>1</sup> As a report from the Milbank Memorial Fund pointed out last week, we have just 26 resident physicians (in all specialties) per 100,000 residents, and only 12% of those are family medicine residents.<sup>2, 3</sup>

Funding from SB 490 would allow ORCA-FM the sustainable funding needed to expand and offer additional resources and programming similar to other long-established family medicine networks.<sup>4</sup> While networks in other states vary, they all support research opportunities for faculty and residents, and most support information and resource sharing.

Family physicians are trained to care for people of all ages and health conditions, and directly address most health care needs throughout the lifespan. Oregon's family physicians provide a broad spectrum of care from pediatric to obstetrical

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<sup>1</sup> Robert Graham Center, *Oregon: Projecting Primary Care Physician Workforce*, <https://www.aafp.org/dam/rgc/documents/maps-data-tools/state-collections/workforce-projections/Oregon.pdf>. Accessed 23 Feb. 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Jabbarpour Y., Petterson S., Jetty A., Byun H., *The Health of US Primary Care: A Baseline Scorecard Tracking Support for High-Quality Primary Care*, The Milbank Memorial Fund and The Physicians Foundation. February 22, 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Data Resource Book: Academic Year 2021-2022. Department of Information Services / Applications and Data Analysis Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Data, 2022.

<sup>4</sup> White B, Carney PA, Garvin R. An assessment of family medicine residency networks in the United States. *J Grad Med Educ*. 2012 Sep;4(3):335-9. doi: 10.4300/JGME-D-11-00253.1. PMID: 23997878; PMCID: PMC3444187.

and reproductive health, to geriatric and hospice care, and they are more likely to practice in rural areas.<sup>5</sup> This bill represents a critical opportunity for Oregon to demonstrate its commitment to primary care through its support of the programs that train them.

Each family medicine residency site has unique characteristics and capabilities. Particularly those that are not attached to academic medical centers face additional challenges in developing innovative curriculum on emerging health issues. A network of residency programs backed by a robust collaborative network can help Oregon gain a competitive advantage in attracting and training the outstanding future physicians we need.

I am joined by the individuals named below from the membership of OAFP.

Sincerely,



Betsy Boyd-Flynn,  
Executive Director

Simran Waller, MD, MPH  
Rebecca Cantone MD  
Stewart Decker, MD  
Fernando Polanco, MD  
Kim Montee, MD  
Jamey Lynn Walker,  
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Alexandra Bray, MD  
Wendy Warren, MD  
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Melissa Ann Hemphill, MD  
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<sup>5</sup>"About Rural Health Care." [www.ruralhealth.us](http://www.ruralhealth.us), National Rural Health Association, <https://www.ruralhealth.us/about-nrha/about-rural-health-care>.