



March 23, 2023

Representatives Campos and Valderrama, Co-Chairs  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court St. NE - HR F  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Good morning, Co-Chairs Campos and Valderrama, and Members of the Subcommittee.

My name is Marie Boman-Davis, my pronouns are she/her/hers and I am the Public Health Division Manager and Local Public Health Administrator appointed by the Washington County Board of County Commissioners. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 5525 with increased investments to Public Health Modernization.

Over the past several weeks you may have seen the following in the news. Hepatitis A in frozen fruit sold at Costco and Trader Joes. High lead levels in skin cream advertised for children. Red day air quality alerts. These situations have immediate negative impacts to our bodies including the liver, blood and lungs and require prompt population level communications.

Communication of health risks and strategies to prevent harm is a public health responsibility. With funding from public health modernization, we have been able to co-create culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate messages with community to share critical and timely information. Our efforts have been able to reduce the burden, strain and cost to our health care system including asthma related emergency room visits.

The \$50 million in the Governor's budget will help maintain investments in the public health system implementation of the foundational capabilities and programs that have been identified over the past three biennia but falls short of the resources needed. Increased investments in public health modernization will allow us to build on the current work and expand to ensure all communities in Oregon receive timely, meaningful and sometimes lifesaving messages through relevant communication channels, with trusted messengers and in languages responsive to community needs.

Respectfully,

*Marie C. Boman-Davis*

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Public Health Division Manager & Local Public Health Administrator