



March 8, 2023

Representative Rob Nosse  
Chair, House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care  
900 Court St. NE, H-472  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**Re: In Support of HB 3298, Relating to health care; prescribing an effective date.**

Dear Representative Nosse and members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

On behalf of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) and our members in Oregon, we write in strong support of HB 3298, which would provide sustained and predictable funding for the statewide Oregon Perinatal Collaborative (OPC). We urge you to pass this proposed legislation and support efforts to improve perinatal health outcomes for Oregon patients and families.

The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM), founded in 1977, is the medical professional society for maternal-fetal medicine subspecialists, who are obstetricians with additional training in high-risk pregnancies. SMFM represents more than 5,500 members who care for high-risk pregnant people and provides education, promotes research, and engages in advocacy to advance optimal and equitable perinatal outcomes for all people who desire and experience pregnancy.

SMFM is committed to lowering the nation's unacceptably high maternal death rate, as well as eliminating the wide racial/ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes. The United States ranks behind other high-income countries in maternal mortality rates, despite major advancements in medical technologies and treatments. Each day, two mothers die due to pregnancy-related causes. Furthermore, maternal morbidity rates continue to rise. Life threatening and near miss severe maternal morbidity is estimated to occur in approximately 50,000 to 60,000 deliveries per year and has a profound effect on patients and families. In addition to being a health care issue, maternal mortality and severe morbidity is also a social justice issue due to its disproportionate impact on minority and low-income women.

A proven strategy for reducing preventable maternal deaths and morbidity is for states to establish a well-resourced and strong perinatal quality collaborative (PQC). PQCs convene a multidisciplinary network of partners and stakeholders dedicated to implementing evidence-based approaches to improving perinatal health. The Oregon Perinatal Collaborative (OPC) has been at the forefront of this work for more than 10 years, working with clinicians, health systems, and public health partners to implement the recommendations of the Oregon Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee. However, intermittent grant funding has stymied the OPC's ability to scale its work to benefit all of Oregon's pregnant individuals and newborns. SMFM strongly supports HB 3298, which will ensure the OPC has sustained and predictable funding to do its critical work.

SMFM is committed to improving perinatal health outcomes and ensuring that individuals are receiving high-quality and equitable care. We thus urge you to advance and recommend the passage of HB 3298. Please do not hesitate to contact Samantha Berg, SMFM's Manager of State Advocacy, at [sberg@smfm.org](mailto:sberg@smfm.org) or (202) 599-3866, should you have questions.

Sincerely,



Anthony Sciscione, DO  
President



Christina J. Wurster, MBA, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer



Aaron Caughey, MD, MPH, PhD  
SMFM State Liaison, Oregon