



MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Rob Nosse, Chair, House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee
Rep. Christine Goodwin, Vice-Chair, House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee
Rep. Travis Nelson, Vice-Chair, House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee
Members of the House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee

From: Courtni Dresser, Vice President of Government Relations

Date: March 23, 2023

Re: OMA Comments in Support of HB 3298 – Oregon Perinatal Collaborative Funding

The Oregon Medical Association (OMA) would like to express strong support for HB 3298 which provides funding for Oregon Perinatal Collaborative (OPC), an organization within Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) working to lower maternal mortality rates statewide. This bill would direct the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to disperse \$1,000,000 to OPC, so they can continue their work to save the lives of Oregon's mothers and newborns.

According to the recently released Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report, *Maternal Mortality Rates in the United States, 2021*, maternal mortality rates have risen almost 40% since 2020, and are over four times what they were in 2005. This report also reflects broad racial disparity finding that Black, American Indian and Alaskan Natives suffer with maternal mortality rates 2-4 times higher overall.

With the support of CDC grants, OPC has become a vital asset in the fight to save the lives our state's vulnerable birthing population with several successful initiatives and partnerships. The instability of solely relying on federal grant funding puts the OPC at risk of being forced to halt the work they do for Oregonians.

State funding would ensure Oregon has a dedicated organization working to provide advocacy and resources for equitable perinatal care in our communities. This reflects a successful model several other states have adopted to ensure they have a devoted perinatal collaborative working

to notice and fill the gaps that exist in their statewide maternity care. The OMA believes Oregonians would benefit from providing this funding on behalf of our statewide birthing community.

For these reasons, the OMA asks you to pass HB 3298.

The Oregon Medical Association (OMA) is the state's largest professional organization engaging in advocacy, policy, community-building, and networking opportunities for Oregon's physicians, physician assistants, medical students, and physician assistant students. The OMA's members speak with one voice as they advocate for policies that improve access to quality patient care, reduce administrative burdens on medical professionals, and improve the health of all Oregonians. Additional information can be found at www.theOMA.org.