



March 28, 2023

Re: HB 3298 providing funding support for the Oregon Perinatal Collaborative (OPC) to improve maternal and neonatal outcomes in Oregon

Dear Chair Nosse and Committee Members:

My name is Joanne Rogovoy and I am the Maternal and Infant Health Director for the March of Dimes Foundation-Oregon. The goals of March of Dimes are threefold: to end preventable maternal health risks and deaths and to end preventable preterm birth and infant death and to end the health equity gap for all moms and babies.

On behalf of March of Dimes-Oregon I ask your support of HB 3298 which would provide stable and reliable funding for the continued work of the Oregon Perinatal Collaborative (OPC). OPC was created out of a need to significantly reduce or eliminate early elective deliveries prior to 39 weeks gestation. New awareness of the importance of the last few weeks of pregnancy and the brain and organ growth occurring in the fetus during those weeks led March of Dimes and the OB lead doctors and nurse champions of every major hospital system to launch the Healthy Babies are Worth the Wait Campaign in Oregon. All major health systems and every birthing hospital adopted a hard stop policy on the practice. This campaign launched in 2011 and results were significant. In less than a year the rate of early elective deliveries dropped to single digits in Oregon. We were the first state to tackle this issue on a statewide basis.

The Oregon Perinatal Collaborative was born out of that initiative and effort of working together to achieve a common goal for Oregon mothers and babies. March of Dimes provided the initial funding and administrative support. Later, OPC was able to secure a grant from the CDC which provided funding for a 5-year period. The OPC during its existence has been able to tackle in real time perinatal and neonatal health concerns. Successful efforts include:

Reducing cesarean rates

Assisting OHA with guidelines for management of Substance Use Disorder during pregnancy

Assisting in the drafting and advocating for the passage of the Maternal Mortality Review Committee bill

Established the Oregon Maternal Data Center (75% of state births are captured in OMDC)

Raising awareness of the statewide increase in Syphilis cases and the risk to an unborn baby if pregnant women are not screened and treated.

Created an OB Hemorrhage Toolkit--worked with labor and delivery units to establish protocols to prevent and address OB hemorrhage as quickly as possible

Created a toolkit to improve community birth transfers (when a home/out of hospital birth needs to transition to a hospital setting)

Hosted monthly state-wide webinars during the Covid 19 pandemic to address needs of pregnant women with Covid and hospital protocols surrounding labor and deliver for patients and hospital staff

HB 3298 would provide reliable funding for the Oregon Perinatal Collaborative to continue these important initiatives to improve the health of all moms and babies in Oregon without having to stop and start while members are seeking funds. It would allow the OPC to continue to address emerging needs of maternal and neonatal patients statewide in a timely manner. In particular OPC is poised to address the recommendations that come out of the Oregon Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee.

I urge your support of HB 3298.

Respectfully,

Joanne Rogovoy
March of Dimes-Oregon
503-468-8490