

Short testimony:

Dr J Gaudino in Support of Full Funding for Public Health Modernization Policy Option Package number #406, 2023-25 biennium.

Short 2-3 min testimony w additions:

Thank you, distinguished Co-Chairs (Senator Steiner, Representative Sanchez), Vice-Chairs and other Committee members. (Joint Ways & Means.)

I am Dr James A. Gaudino-- a Preventive Medicine-Public Health Specialist Physician & Epidemiologist and an Affiliate Professor with the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health. I bring 35 plus years experience

These LAST eight years, we know Oregonians continue to suffer many ongoing and face NEW threats to their health & wellbeing including from climate harms and firearm and other violence.

AND every year, this committee hears from diverse community voices, including my own, PLEADING for the funding needed for Oregon's public health system (local, tribal, state public health departments) to meet minimum functional and service capabilities for the 21st century.

**Thank you for your support IN past years BUT we are NOT there yet.
Per capita state legislature investments rank lower than MOST other states.
(See the Rede Group's Pandemic Response report & others.)**

**Tonight, I respectfully ask for
\$150 million to FULLY FUND Oregon's Public Health Modernization Policy Option Package number #406 for the coming (2023-25) biennium.**

I'm ASKING YOUR committee TO *CREATIVELY USE* existing resources & new funding TO do this!

So why MORE public health NOW?

Settled evidence for over 25 years CONFIRMS that healthcare alone *contributes to about ONLY 10-15%* of what prevents pre-mature death and disability AND what preserves good health LONGER.

IN FACT, Upstream, evidence-based Public health interventions ARE ABLE to help *communities address many of these other 85-90% of factors that contribute to healthier living AND help avoid needless suffering, illness, injury, disability and pre-mature death.*

We work RIGHT where people live, work and play. AND Public health is the most evidence-driven work in government, as I once shared with former Republican Senator, Congressman Bentz.

**YET Roughly 85-90 % of our health dollars CONTINUE to be directed to support Health Care !
That leaves public health & community prevention short year after year.**

YES, Health care is *necessary BUT sorely INSUFFICIENT* to achieve longer health for ALL Oregonians !

Previous testimony & many reports confirm the many accomplishments by public health using resources already allocated !

PLEASE review these AGAIN

In summary We NEED:

- ~ \$100 million to support on-the-ground work in Oregon communities by ~ 30+ Local Health Departments in partnership with Community based-organizations;
- ~ \$16 million for Tribal health authorities & their communities
- ~ \$5.2 million specific for Reproductive Health Services
- ~ \$22 million for statewide initiatives & coordination by the Oregon Health Authority (Public Health Division)

These Investments are smart, community investments yielding long-lasting and short-term returns, esp for our most underserved and vulnerable communities.

Prevention is about the future SO please act on FOR all Oregonians UP to our Seventh generations, as Indigenous leaders have wisely done for centuries.

THANK YOU