



## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 14, 2025

Re: Support for House Bill 5025 – Additional Funding for Public Health Modernization

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Campos and Representative Valderrama and Members of the Joint Subcommittee On Human Services:

The Deschutes County Board of County Commissioners strongly support additional investments in public health in House Bill 5025 to ensure our local public health authorities have the capacity to sustain core public health functions, including: communicable disease control, environmental health, epidemiology, risk communications, as well as maintain a robust public health workforce that is poised to prepare for and respond to emerging public health threats. Ten years after Oregon prioritized public health modernization, lawmakers have committed only about one third of the amount needed to fully fund foundational public health programs and services. We support an additional \$25 million investment in Public Health Modernization in the Oregon Health Authority Budget, HB 5025, for the upcoming Biennium.

Since 2018, in Central Oregon, Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson Counties have received Modernization funding to improve communicable disease prevention, provide infection prevention training and support to long term care facilities, make health and disease data available to the public, and prepare our communities for smoke impacts from wildfire. Public Health Modernization funding made it possible for Deschutes County Communicable Disease staff to respond to 73 outbreaks in Central Oregon in 2024. Currently, the Governor's requested budget only includes an additional \$2 million for Public Health Modernization. At this low level of additional funding, Deschutes County may have to reduce services performed in Deschutes County and Central Oregon due to increased cost outpacing this funding.

Local Public Health Departments are the backbone of public health in Oregon. Please support an additional \$25 million in funding for public health in House Bill 5025 to ensure core public health services and protections are maintained throughout our State. Thank you for your consideration.

The Deschutes County Board of Commissioners

  
Anthony DeBone  
Chair

  
Patti Adair  
Vice Chair

  
Phil Chang  
Commissioner

CC: Senators Andrew Broadman, Diane Linthicum, and Mike McLane  
Representatives Vikki Breese Iverson, Jason Kropf, Emerson Levy, E. Werner Reschke, and Mark Owens