

Short testimony:

**Dr J Gaudino in Support of Funding for Public Health Modernization Policy Option Bills 25-27
biennium.**

Short 2-3 min testimony w additions:

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

**I am Dr James A. Gaudino-- a Senior Preventive Medicine-Public Health Specialist Physician,
Epidemiologist and Affiliate Professor with TWO university Schools of Public Health –
the OHSU-PSU and UW Schools of Public Health.**

I bring ~40 years experience

**Many Oregon communities and families are SUFFERING and FEARFUL
with the MANY ongoing and NEW threats to their health & wellbeing
AND with slowly faltering governmental responses
...witnessing CUT backs in services in our UPSTREAM Public health system,
shrinking in abilities to protect our communities**

You know some of these THREATs --- I won't list them NOW

**Preventable communicable and chronic diseases,
Loosing ground for having safe and healthy and thriving pregnancies, infants, adolescents
and family members
AND emerging (and re-emerging) conditions
Breakout COVID-like viral illnesses
Larger-scale climate and environmental threats
Firearm and other violence**

SKIP to:

We can prevent and mitigate MUCH with UPSTREAM approaches!

**OUR Public health system- Local, tribal, state public health departments-- IS *separate* from
healthcare WHERE clinicians LIKE ME provide interventions to individuals—one person at a
time**

**Instead, Public health system IS a “force multiplier” with healthcare, WE track and study
health threats and implement COMMUNITY-level interventions BACKED BY Science**

**We empower community members to BE more healthy and resilient even BEFORE they need
healthcare**

**We SAVED many lives from horrible suffering, premature death, and disabilities when
COVID-19 spread**

**YET WE CANNOT AGAIN afford the costly delays we had RAMPING UP for COVID to respond
to these next threats!**

We also can't afford MORE workforce losses

The duBeaumont Foundation summarized it this way:

Congress and state leaders would never cut budgets for force readiness of our military after a big fight (still going on),

**BUT often cuts back public health's force readiness after responding to health threats !
FORGETTING the ongoing PUBLIC health, safety and Readiness NEEDS of our communities**

Today, for 2025-27, I respectfully ask for FULL FUNDING and support for 10 smaller budget and policy requests by Oregon's Coalition of Local Health Officers (CLHO)

CLHO is co-parallel in constitutional Public Health Authority with OHA (OHA Public Health Division)

These are common sense Public Health Modernization ACTIONS that will

A. Deliver to effective services to our communities (7 listed here)

--Disease prevention and curative treatments (\$25 million, HB 2025)

--Primary Addiction Prevention (\$25 million, HB 2954)

--Early Childhood – WIC and Nurse Home Visiting (\$10.2 million)

--Ban Flavored Tobacco products (SB 702)

--Closing Tobacco Loopholes (HB 2528)

--Vaccine Finance Reform with bridging investments (SB 42)

--START Updating Point of Sales Tax on Beer, Wine, Cider) (HB 3197)

and

B. Assure communities HAVE AN effective, locally-engaged and responsive public health workforce (3 listed here)

--Break down silos to Assure CCOs, Medicaid and other community health boards leverage the expertise of Local Public Health (HB 2224 & HB 2317)

--Opening up Career Pathways in Public Health (\$5 million)

--Payment Pathways for Community Health Workers (HB 2216) and for Community Paramedics (HB 2222)

I will submit details in my written testimony

WE ASK YOUR committee TO *CREATIVELY* break down siloes using existing resources and invest SOME new funding TO keep our communities healthy and protected !

Public health SAVE LIVES, Reduces suffering and efficiently stretches our limited health dollars.

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW community PUBLIC HEALTH to again fall behind!

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 SO MUCH