



**Letter of support for: SB 443: BUILDING OREGON'S PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE sponsored by Sen. Patterson.**

**March 20, 2025**

Dear Honorable Senators,

Oregon needs Family Physicians, to deliver primary care to all Oregonians. There are currently 205 open positions for Family Physicians across the state of Oregon. Many currently practicing Family Physicians are nearing retirement age. Family Physicians do cradle to grave care, with many delivering babies, caring for pediatric patients, adults of all ages and finally, end of life care. When combined with population growth, if all Family Medicine graduates were to stay in Oregon, we would be about 50% short of the needed number to maintain current levels of care.

We now graduate 53 new board-eligible Family Physicians in Oregon each year, and over half stay in Oregon. The Oregon Residency Collaborative Alliance for Family Medicine (ORCA-FM) has been instrumental in assisting Family Medicine Residency Program Directors with training, support and expansion. Since 2020, we have expanded from 7 to 9 Family Medicine residencies, increased graduating residents from 37 to 53 and increased the total number of Family Medicine residents training in Oregon from 124 to 182.

ORCA-FM has also been essential for recruitment of new residents via a statewide virtual recruitment effort, coordination at the Association of American Family Physicians National Conference medical student recruiting event annually. We have also advanced important resident training including Policy Scholars training for residents, and faculty development training.

I am currently a Family Medicine Program Director at Providence Milwaukie, and 40% of our graduates in the last 10 years have stayed with Providence, and an additional 35% have stayed in Oregon, most of them working in Federally Qualified Health Centers.

As current Chair of ORCA-FM and prior University of Washington faculty member active with the 5 state WWAMI collaboration, I know and see the value of residency collaborations on: recruitment, retention, advancing primary care in this state, not just in urban but rural and underserved regions, too.

Please support SB 443 to fund ORCA-FM for 1.5 million dollars as this is vital in sustaining our efforts to increase excellent Family Physicians to come, train, stay and care for Oregonians. Please feel free to reach out if you have questions.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Osborn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Justin Osborn M.D. | FAAFP.**

Program Director, Providence Oregon Family Medicine Residency

Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine OHSU

Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine, University of Washington

ORCA-FM Chair