

 **Health Policy and Advocacy Committee
Voting Member Position Description**

 **General Summary**

The Health Policy and Advocacy Committee leads OPHA’s policy and advocacy work and is supported by OPHA staff members. This committee is essential to advancing OPHA’s mission to:

* Advocate for policies that protect and promote health and health equity for all people in Oregon, and
* Provide learning, collaboration, and leadership opportunities for public health professionals and the broader community.

The Health Policy and Advocacy Committee receives endorsement requests for proposed state legislative bills and ballot initiatives from OPHA members and organizations across the state. The Committee primarily considers state level legislation but may consider local or national policy as capacity allows. The Committee reviews the endorsement requests and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors, who make the final decision regarding OPHA’s position on the legislation (endorse, neutral, oppose).

 **Primary Duties and Responsibilities**

* Review all endorsement requests received by the Committee.
* Attend at least 80% of the Committee meetings to discuss endorsement requests.
* Track one bill throughout the legislative session and provide updates to the Committee.

 **Additional Responsibilities** (please consider engaging in one of the following)

* Lead or support the organization of an annual legislative advocacy day.
* Attend the annual legislative advocacy day at the state capitol or virtually.
* Participate in ad hoc subcommittees, such as a Bylaws Committee.
* Become a champion supporter of one bill endorsed by OPHA. As a champion you would:
	+ Connect with the lead organization who organizes the bill.
	+ Draft testimony on OPHA’s behalf.
	+ Track bill and providing advocacy updates and alerts to the committee.

**Qualifications**

* Are currently a member of OPHA.
* Are committed to advancing equity and improving health outcomes through policy.
* Have a basic understanding of and willingness to learn about the [legislative process](https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen_engagement/Documents/idea2LawEnglish.pdf).
* Can apply a public health lens to legislative endorsement requests through lived experience, on-the-job experience, education, or attained knowledge.

 **Commitment**

The time commitment for the Committee varies throughout the year and depends on whether the Oregon Legislature is in a long or short session. The typical schedule is once a week during the legislative session and once-a-month outside of session. As a volunteer voting Committee member, there must be capacity to attend at least 80% of the scheduled committee meetings. Additional preparation and reading time will be needed outside of meeting time, to review endorsement requests.