

Oregon Public Health Association

Policy Type: General

Policy Name: Request Support of Legislation or Policy

1. Request for OPHA support for any public policy position is submitted to Chair of Health Policy & Advocacy Committee or the Executive Director.
2. If the proposal is covered within a current OPHA priority area, it can be referred to the lead person in that area for an initial review and recommendation for action.
3. Issue is sent to Health Policy & Advocacy Committee for review and recommendation to the Board.
 - a. At the discretion of the Executive Director, a copy of the request may also be sent to full Board to alert them to issue.
4. Health Policy & Advocacy Committee reviews request using following parameters:
 - a. Is there existing OPHA policy to provide background for support or non-support?
 - b. In absence of existing OPHA policy, the Health Policy committee may:
 - i. review the supporting documentation submitted by the requestor
 - ii. request a review by the appropriate OPHA Section
 - iii. request additional information from the requestor
 - iv. follow a guiding APHA policy
 - c. The following principles may be considered when evaluating endorsement requests:
 - i. Impact on preventing or ameliorating public health problems of Oregonians
 - ii. Potential cost trade-offs (financial and social)
 - iii. Potential acceptance by a majority of Oregonian voters
 - iv. Timing issues –whether this is the optimal time for advocacy
 - v. Potential allies and opponents
 - vi. Competing bills and ideas
5. Response time for the endorsement decision will be decided by the chair, with input from the requestor on the expedience of the timeframe.
 - a. Issues requiring a quick turnaround may be evaluated through email correspondence or sent directly to the Board.
 - b. When time allows, endorsement decisions will be handled at the next scheduled Health Policy Committee Meeting.

6. Health Policy & Advocacy Committee makes recommendation to the Board.
Action options:
 - a. Support: w/ letter, testimony, use of name, action alerts to members, listing on OPHA website
 - b. No support, with reasons
 - c. Neutral (not enough evidence to take a position)
 - d. Oppose

7. Executive Director receives recommendation of Health Policy & Advocacy Committee and either
 - a. Refers to Board for vote of acceptance, rejection or modification –OR–
 - b. If timeline is short, refers to Executive Committee for vote of acceptance, rejection, or modification

8. If amendments are made to the legislation or policy, the Health Policy & Advocacy Committee may reconsider OPHA's position to support, oppose, or remain neutral.
 - a. It is the responsibility of the support requestor to inform OPHA of changes to the legislation or policy.

Last Revision: 9/2014
Scheduled Review: 9/2017