

Action Alert: Express Your Support for Public Health Funding TODAY!



Oregon Public Health Association

Working together to make health happen

ACTION ALERT

Express Your Support for Public Health Funding

Contact Oregon Legislature today!

Dear OPHA Member,

Please take immediate action and urge your elected officials to support a strong governmental public health system. [HB 5026](#) is a crucial piece of legislation that would appropriate funding to local health departments, which play a key role in supporting the health of communities across the state of Oregon.

Here's how you can help:

Call or email your elected officials today, and inform them that spending on local public health activities is a wise health investment (see talking points below). [Click here](#) to find out who represents you in the House and Senate.

Attend the Joint Committee on Ways & Means - Subcommittee on Human Services tomorrow, Wednesday, March 8th at 8:30 a.m. in hearing room F at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem and testify in support of funding for a strong public health system - Learn more about HB 5026 [HERE](#).

- Written comments can be sent to jwms.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Talking Points:

- Local public health departments in our state work to monitor community health status, investigate and control disease outbreaks, educate the public about health risks and prevention strategies, enforce public health laws and regulations such as those concerning tobacco use, and inspect and ensure the safety and quality of water and food.
- Increases in public health spending were associated with reductions in infant mortality, and deaths due to cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer. (*Mays, G. Smith, S. (2011). Health Affairs. Evidence links increases in public health spending to declines in preventable deaths.*)
- Reductions in state support for public health activities are likely to have adverse health consequences over time. (*Mays, G. Smith, S. (2011). Health Affairs. Evidence links increases in public health spending to declines in preventable deaths.*)
- Research has shown that, overall, public health spending is one of the most consistent determinants of community-level preventable deaths. (*Mays, G. Smith, S. (2011). Health Affairs. Evidence links increases in public health spending to declines in preventable deaths.*)
- With the uncertainty at the federal level around the prevention and public health fund now is the time keep investing in public health.
- With potential reductions at the federal level, Oregon could lose funding in key public health service areas like childhood immunizations, communicable disease control, and chronic disease prevention.

- With Oregon's public health system transformation efforts, public health modernization, it is now more important than ever that we maintain funding in our public health system to not lose ground on foundational areas of public health work.

Additional Resources:

- [Co-Chairs' Existing Resources Budget Framework, 2017-2019](#)
- [Public Health Modernization Communication Resources - CLHO](#)
- [Oppose Prevention and Public Health Fund Repeal Letter](#) - Sent from OPHA to Senators Wyden, Senator Merkley, Rep. Blumenauer, Rep. Bonamici, Rep. DeFazio, Rep. Schrader, Representative Walden (January 19, 2017)