OPHA Health Policy & Advocacy

**Process for Request for OPHA Support for Legislation or Policy**

1. Request for OPHA support for any public policy position is submitted to Chair of Health Policy & Advocacy Committee or the Board President.
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.
   1. At the discretion of the Board President, 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:
   1. Is there existing OPHA policy to provide background for support or non-support?
   2. In absence of existing OPHA policy, the Health Policy committee may:
      1. review the supporting documentation submitted by the requestor
      2. request a review by the appropriate OPHA Section
      3. request additional information from the requestor
      4. follow a guiding APHA policy
   3. The following principles may be considered when evaluating endorsement requests:
      1. Impact on preventing or ameliorating public health problems of Oregonians
      2. Potential cost trade-offs (financial and social)
      3. Potential acceptance by a majority of Oregonian voters
      4. Timing issues –whether this is the optimal time for advocacy
      5. Potential allies and opponents
      6. 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.
   1. Issues requiring a quick turnaround may be evaluated through email correspondence or sent directly to the Board.
   2. 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:
   1. Support: w/ letter, testimony, use of name, action alerts to members, listing on OPHA website
   2. No support, with reasons
   3. Neutral (not enough evidence to take a position)
   4. Oppose
7. Board President receives recommendation of Health Policy & Advocacy Committee and either
   1. Refers to Board for vote of acceptance, rejection or modification –OR-
   2. 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.
   1. It is the responsible of the support requestor to inform OPHA of changes to the legislation or policy.

*For more information on OPHA’s Health Policy & Advocacy Committee, visit:*

[*http://www.oregonpublichealth.org/policyadvocacycommittee*](http://www.oregonpublichealth.org/policyadvocacycommittee)