

**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.
  - a. 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:
  - 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. Board President 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 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>