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Oregon Public Health Association

Working together to make health happen

## Action Alert: Public Health Modernization Funding

### OPHA Members and Partners,

Many of you know that Oregon has been working to modernize our public health system. This session, the Legislature is considering an investment of *\$35 million* to finally give public health the traction it needs to move toward our common goal: preventing illness and disease and responding in a coordinated way when we need to. OPHA urges you to contact the chairs of the [Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on Human Services](#) and the [Ways and Means Committee](#). Let these legislators know that funding to modernize Oregon's public health system is a valuable investment they must make today and they must fund the entire \$35 million request. Phone calls from constituents are especially impactful. Calls to any of the committee members, especially from constituents will be helpful. Find your legislator at: <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/>.

Provide specifics of your work, highlighting the importance of it in your community and how a modern, funded system could make that work even more impactful. Legislators need the how and why of our work. Modernization means ensuring foundational public health programs and capabilities are available to every resident of Oregon, regardless of where they live. Right now, more than 1 million Oregonians live in an area where public health emergency and disaster preparedness are limited. About one million Oregonians live in areas that cannot fully identify, prevent, and control a communicable disease outbreak. Our climate is changing, bringing new health threats that our system needs to prepare for. Modernization funding would help the system better address all of these.

Recent outbreaks of resurgent diseases like measles and pertussis, wildfire smoke, and unsafe drinking water in Salem are all recent examples of where additional public health capacity is needed.

OHA Director Patrick Allen and PH Division Director Lillian Shirley gave [this presentation](#) to the Joint Subcommittee on Human Services on May 2. It clearly compares and contrasts a traditional public health system with a modern one as well as giving examples of success stories accomplished with better partnerships and the limited funds the Legislature has given so far.

### [Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on Human Services co-chairs:](#)

[Full committee list with contact information](#)

#### **Co-Chair Senator Lee Beyer**

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**Here are more resources to better understand modernization:**

[OHA Public Health Modernization Fact Sheet](#)

[OHA Public Health Modernization One-Pager Summary 2019](#)

[OHA Public Health Division Public Health Modernization Implementation Interim Evaluation Report September 2018](#)

[OHA Modernization For Legislators](#)

[CLHO Modernization one-pager for legislators](#)

[CLHO Modernization 2019](#)

**Thank you for supporting one another to build the capacity we need!**

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Oregon Public Health Association