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