

COLUMBIA COUNTY

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October 28, 2025

Greetings!

On behalf of the Local Public Health Authority in Columbia County, we are writing to thank you for your extraordinary partnership and continued commitment to the people of our county, particularly in the area of reproductive health.

As part of our update to the 2018 Reproductive Health Assessment (Program Element 46), we are reassessing the reproductive health services available in Columbia County. Unfortunately, what has become evident is that little has improved since our last assessment. The gaps remain wide, and the needs are profound.

Yet even amid this challenging landscape, one thing stands out with absolute clarity: the services provided by OHSU Family Medicine in Scappoose are essential to the health and safety of our residents. Your team serves a severely underserved population and bridges a gap that no one else has stepped forward to fill. For that, we are deeply grateful.

We continue to hear from community members who rely on your clinic as their only source of comprehensive care. Many tell us directly, *"I cannot travel to Portland."* Others say they will only seek care from a provider they know and trust. The dedication of your clinicians and staff, their willingness to stay, to serve, and to listen, has not gone unnoticed. Their work is a testament to OHSU's mission and a lifeline for our community. It stands as a model for what rural health partnerships can achieve.

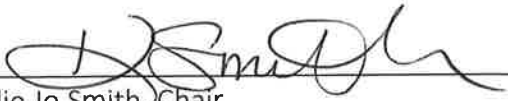
Columbia County remains a county without a hospital within its borders. That reality leaves our population uniquely vulnerable. Transportation out of the county is difficult and, in many areas, nearly impossible. EMS resources are stretched thin, often with little room for error. In that context, **the OHSU Family Medicine Clinic in Scappoose is not simply a clinic; it is a critical safety net.** It provides continuity, familiarity, and trust, which are all foundational for reproductive health and primary care alike.

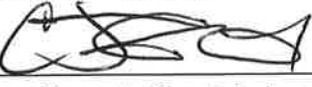
In closing, the County wishes to express both gratitude and resolve. We are thankful for OHSU's efforts to provide comprehensive reproductive health services to the community members of Columbia County, and we are equally committed to supporting the continuation and strengthening of this work. The County stands ready to partner to sustain these vital services and ensure that our residents, particularly our most vulnerable, are not left behind.

Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss how we can continue this partnership.

With sincere appreciation,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 
Kellie Jo Smith, Chair

By: 
Casey Garrett, Commissioner

By: 
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner