Oregon State University
College of Public Health and Human Sciences
School of Social and Behavioral Health Sciences, 401 Waldo Hall, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-6406
Phone 541-737-2686 | Fax 541-737-4001 | health.oregonstate.edu

November 16, 2016

Dr. Denise Lach
Director, School of Public Policy
College of Liberal Arts

Dr. Lach,

Please accept this letter of support for the proposed BS in Public Policy.

The School of Public Policy in the College of Liberal Arts and the Health Management Program in the College of Public Health and Human Sciences have been offering complementary graduate programs (Masters and PhD) for some time and we are excited to be able to expand that collaboration at the undergraduate level.

Public policy and health policy remain distinct disciplines. Work in the health policy arena requires a firm understanding the intricacies of the healthcare financing, delivery, and public health systems. Consequently, students with an interest in working in the area will continue to be best served by the BS in Public Health -Health Management and Policy option. We believe that Health Management and Policy students with an interest in policy careers would benefit from policy coursework available through a new BS in public policy, including methods courses such as Introduction to Policy Research.

We also see the potential to provide BS in Public Policy students with an opportunity to learn more about the healthcare policy and how it may interact with their identified areas of concentration (environmental, rural, or social policy).

We anticipate that the BS in public policy will complement the Health Management and Policy program and we support the efforts of the School of Public Policy to offer a BS in public policy.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Volmar JD MPH
Clinical Associate Professor
Coordinator Health Management and Policy Program