



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Tina Kotek, Governor

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Authority

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March 2, 2023

Governor Tina Kotek
Office of the Governor
900 Court Street, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Dear Governor Kotek:

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the interim director of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). I have been honored to shepherd the agency during this time of transition. However, I have decided I will not pursue the permanent director position. My family is the center of my life and I recognize the demands of this role are not compatible with the focus I want to give to them.

I want to thank you for your commitment to the health and well-being of Oregonians and your leadership in tackling the most urgent challenges facing our state.

Also, I want to thank the OHA staff who have worked hard to save lives and improve the health of people in every community statewide. I've been inspired by their dedication to preserving and expanding health coverage, ensuring more people have access to behavioral health services and protecting public health.

I am proud of the work we've done to support your proposed budget investments in health, work with partners to strengthen behavioral health (and onboard new behavioral health leadership), advance Oregon's ground-breaking Medicaid waiver, and minimize disruptions in Oregon Health Plan coverage for eligible Oregonians during upcoming Medicaid redeterminations.

My last day at OHA will be March 17, 2023. I look forward to working with you and your team to ensure a seamless transition and keep the critical work of the agency on track.

Sincerely,

James M. Schroeder
Interim Director