



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

## Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

"Advocating Equality and Diversity"

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### Testimony in Support for the Oregon Advocacy Commission Office Joint Ways and Means Committee March 11, 2013

Honorable Co-Chair Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair Smith, Sen. Johnson,  
Sen. Whitsett, Rep. Gomberg, and Rep. Nathanson,

On behalf of the OCHA Commissioners, I want to express our gratitude for the opportunity to serve the State of Oregon in representing the state's Hispanic/Latino/Indígena (HLI) communities which now constitute twelve percent of Oregon's population.

Created by legislative statute, OCHA continues its critical and timely role of volunteer citizen governance, expanding its liaison function to connect members and key committees of the Oregon Legislature, the directors of state agencies and bureaus, and the Governor's Office and Cabinet, with the myriad network of new HLI leadership and organizations which have emerged throughout the urban, suburban and rural regions, in the last biennium. Benefits of this activity have included informed policy development, legislative priorities, and a new ethos of collaboration and consultation that transcends partisanship and ideologies that echo throughout the State Capitol.

This special ethos has also permeated and strengthened OCHA's relationship of trust and integrity with the other three advocacy commissions, who now work creatively and with good stewardship of the state's resources for common aspirations of improving the social and economic well being and assuring civil and human rights for our constituents communities, as well as all Oregonians. We could not do so without our staff and office and with what general funds have been designated. Half of the state's population which we collectively represent and serve, are already investing their time, talents, and taxes towards the prosperity and polity of this great State. We ask that you not approve further reductions in the OACO budget, but instead affirm the necessary resources needed to meet our mandates with integrity.

Sincerely,

Andrea Cano

Chair

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

#### OR Commission on Hispanic Affairs

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