



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
1819 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97201
O 503.302.9725 / F 503.473.8519
Email: oaco.mail@state.or.us

Memorandum

Date: March 26, 2013
To: Joint Ways and Means, General Government Subcommittee
From: Chairs of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions
Re: Resources needed by OAC's to fulfill their duties

Thank you for your support of the work of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions as you consider its budget. We appreciate your asking the Advocacy Commissions what resources they believe would be needed to fully fulfill their duties and mission. We have asked all Commissioners for their response. With one exception responding Commissioners indicated that restoring in-state travel funds to the budget is imperative to meet in areas outside Portland/Salem, provide statewide representation and support their community outreach.

As the Chairs of the Advocacy Commissions we want to be clear that the funding we are requesting in the Governor's budget which includes 2 policy option packages reflect the primary budget concerns of most Commissioners. These are focused on increased support for Commissioner activities in community outreach/forums with a work study student and restoring in-state transportation for Commissions.

In discussion with the Commissions, if additional resources are available in future biennia, there is solid interest in growing the staff in key areas and we wish to pursue the conversation with our Commissioners for future budgets. There can be no question that reducing the original staffing of the Advocacy Commissions from 4 – 6 total staff prior to 2003 to current levels of 2 staff for 4 Commissions is challenging for meeting the full missions of the Commissions which include community outreach and liaison, research of issues, monitoring government agencies and other areas. In tight budget times we believe that the Commissions are making good progress leveraging student interns, work study students and community partnerships to strengthen the work of the Commissions in their missions and duties.

Stephen Ying, Chair, OCAPIA

Isaac Dixon, Chair, OCBA

Andrea Cano, Chair, OCHA

Stephanie Vardavas, Chair, OCFW

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