



Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon

(971) 340-4861

info@apano.org

www.apano.org

  @apanonews

**TO: Oregon House Health Care Committee**  
**FR: Joseph Santos-Lyons, Executive Director**  
**DA: February 15, 2013**  
**RE: Testimony in support of HB 2134 and -1 amendments**

---

Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee:

My name is Joseph Santos-Lyons, Executive Director of APANO, the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon. We are a statewide community organization that works to ensure that Asians and Pacific Islanders are fully engaged in the social, economic and political issues that affect us. I am here today to testify in support of HB 2134.

We believe in an Oregon where everyone has access to the health care they need, and that good health is the foundation of community prosperity. For generations our communities have made contributions to our economy and society, yet still some of our communities face persistent disparities in health and human services. We know that despite our best efforts, real differences exist in the outcomes of various communities. These differences have been well documented for example in the Coalition of Communities of Color Unsettling Profile and the Oregon State of Equity Report.

Oregon currently has data gaps and outdated collection practices that are problematic and need modest adjustments. For example, Asian and Pacific Islanders when grouped in overall average falls short of any useful purpose. Inconsistencies in data collection, for example collecting data on Asians and Pacific Islanders as "Other" or "Asian", rules out meaningful use of data within and across state agency provided services.

We need good data to help us tailor services to the needs of our diverse communities. We know that the wrong focus equals the wrong results. Collecting accurate information about race, ethnicity, language and disability status in a uniform, practical and culturally appropriate format is critical to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of programs and services, and is also a proven strategy to eliminate disparities.

We have worked closely with OHA and DHS staff over the last several years to develop best practices, policies and around the development of the HB 2134 and the -1 amendments. This bill gives rule-making authority to the Oregon Health Authority and Department of Human Services to adopt uniform standards based on best practices for the collection of data on race, ethnicity, language and disability status. The bill provides for ongoing stakeholder engagement and a review and update of the standards every two years to stay current with best practices.

HB 2134 does not have an implementation deadline, but does require OHA and DHS to report back to the Legislature by June of 2014 on the uniform standards and plan for implementation across the agencies.

This bill is supported by 38 community organizations and we have submitted 18 letters of support from health and human service groups and professionals.

We want to make sure that all Oregonians get the best health care and human services possible. We ask that you pass HB 2134 with the -1 amendments. Thank you and I am happy to answer any questions.

###