

Joint Ways and Means, General Government Committee

Friday, March 08, 2013

Testimony on Funding for the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office

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

I am writing in support of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions, their work and their budget. As an intern to the Commission on Hispanic Affairs, I had the privilege of working alongside leaders in my community and getting a hands-on experience in the policy making process.

As a graduate student at Warner Pacific College, a community member and a young-professional, the Advocacy Commission has given me tools to be a leader. As the Hispanic community grows in Oregon the need for leadership is vital for the well-being of our members. The Commission not only provides a voice for the people but also sets an example for future generations. My experience gave me the opportunity to take grassroots work and view it from a policy perspective, a concept that was foreign to me before my internship.

The Oregon Advocacy Commission Office provided me with a project that was meaningful to the community, the Commission and me. Through my thesis I was able to inform policy and create lifelong-relationships. Two years ago I never would have imagined a career in policy making. However, the Commission exposed me to a career that I feel passionate about and that allows me to be at the table when decisions are being made.

Thank you for funding the Oregon Advocacy Commissions. I urge you to continue your support so that others may benefit from their work too.

Rolando Cruz  
Graduate Student Intern  
Masters in Management and Organizational Leadership