



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission for Women
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
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Joint Ways Means, General Government Committee:
Co-Chair Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair Smith,
Sen. Johnson, Sen. Whitsett, Rep. Gomberg, and Rep. Nathanson

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions deliver significant value to Oregon taxpayers.

There are four Advocacy Commissions, each Commission made up of passionate volunteers and engaged legislators, and all four Commissions are supported by a staff of only two full time employees and a minuscule budget.

Yet the work of the Commissions reaches into every corner of the state, into populations historically underrepresented in state government, whose voices were seldom heard in the past even when decisions were being made that affected them directly.

We provide reliable information and testimony about our communities and the issues confronting them to state government agencies and to the Legislature. We collaborate among ourselves and share information in order to maximize our efficiency and impact.

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions successfully straddle two worlds. We represent our communities in Salem, and we help interpret and provide access points to state government and programs for members of our communities. We are stretched to the edge of our effectiveness, though, and further budget reductions will impair meaningfully our ability to carry out our missions.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Vardavas
Chair

OR Commission for Women

Chair:

Stephanie Vardavas

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Jeanne Burch

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