

**JOSEPH GALLEGOS**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 30



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

March 14, 2013

Senator Floyd Prozanski – Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee  
Bill Taylor, Counsel

Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am urging you to support Senate Bill 463, which relates to the impact of proposed legislation and ballot measures on minority populations in Oregon.

Huge racial disparities exist in many programs here in Oregon. According to the Urban League of Portland, African American children account for 8.3% of the foster care population, but only 2.4% of Oregon's child population. Native American children comprise 8.8% of the foster care population but only 1.3% of Oregon child population.

These disparities deeply concern me and should concern all of us. I admire the progress our agencies have made in dealing with the over-representation of minorities in state programs. However, there is a need for tools at the legislative level to ensure that legislators can predict the impact legislation will have on minorities before a bill is passed.

I urge you to support the use of Racial Impact Statements as another tool to begin to reduce these disparities in agency systems. I urge you to support SB 463.

Representative Joe Gallegos

