

Advocacy



The Oregon Advocacy Commissions

(OACs) give underrepresented populations a voice in policymaking. We maintain an independent voice within state government, collaborating with the Governor, legislators and community partners on key equity issues and lifting lesser known but important policy areas into prominence with our advocacy. In the 2013 and 2014 sessions the OACs supported 30 bills with testimony and letters of support for hearings, 87% of which passed.

Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

oregon.gov/ocapia

Commission on Black Affairs

oregon.gov/ocba

Commission on Hispanic Affairs

oregon.gov/ocha

Commission for Women

oregon.gov/ocfw



Education

The primary strategic priority of each of the four Advocacy Commissions is addressing education disparities pre-kindergarten through higher ed and the trades.

2013

SB 739, ODE Consultation on Oregon History, Testimony (OCAPIA, OCBA, OCHA, OCFW)*

HB 3409A, Special Certificate for Natural Hair Care, Testimony (OCAPIA, OCBA, OCHA, OCFW)*

HB 2787, Tuition Equity, Letter of Support, Letter of Appreciation (OCHA)*

2014

HB 4084, Community Colleges to Provide Child Daycare for Students, Testimony (OCBA, OCFW)

HB 4090, Grants to Expand School Lunch Programs, Testimony (OCBA, OCHA, OCFW)*

(additional bills continued on back)



Jobs and the Economy

Policies that affect wage equity, jobs, careers, diverse workforce and leadership, small business, poverty, and attainment are part of the OAC's strategic priorities.

2013

SB 744, Pay Equity Study, Testimony (OCFW)*

HB 2212, Small State Procurement Contracting, Testimony (OCAPIA, OCHA)*

HB 2669, Intern Protections at Work, Testimony (OCAPIA, OCBA, OCHA, OCFW)*



Health/Healthcare

OAC's strategic priorities include access to care, health coverage, culturally competent care, health education, and better health outcomes for all.

2013

HB 2134, Collection of Health Data by Race, Ethnicity, Testimony (OCAPIA)*

HB 2611, Culturally Competent Care, Testimony (OCAPIA, OCBA, OCHA, OCFW)*

2014

SB 1511A, Radon Testing and Abatement in Schools, Testimony (OCFW)

SB 1542, Home Care Registry, Testimony (OCFW)*

(additional bills continued on back)



Justice, Safety and Policing

Overrepresentation in justice and corrections, hate and stalking protections, profiling, community policing and training, and access to justice are essential issues for the OACs.

2013

SB 560, End Racial Profiling, Testimony (OCAPIA, OCBA, OCHA)

HB 2226 Domestic Violence Survivor Name Change Anonymity, drafted by OCFW*

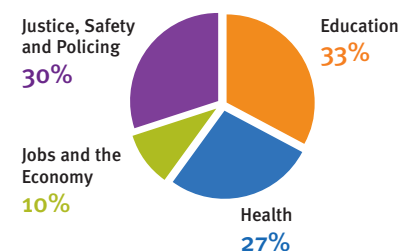
2014

HB 4054A, Renaming Ballot Measure for Short-Term Driver Card, Letter of Support (OCAPIA, OCBA, OCHA, OCFW)

HB 4086, Exempt Personally Identifiable Information Collected by Mass Transit Electronic Fare System, Testimony (OCFW)*

(additional bills continued on back)

OAC Supported Bills 2013–2014



* Indicates that bill passed

(continued from front)

Education

2013

SB 755: Minority Teachers Act, Testimony (OCAPIA, OCBA, OCHA, OCFW) *

ODE Creation of Internal Student Discipline Disparities Committee, Letter of Support (OCBA)

OEIB Use of an Equity Lens for Education Policy, Invited Testimony (OCAPIA, OCBA, OCHA, OCFW)

2014

HB 4116A, Grants to Community Colleges for Tuition Support of Underserved Students, Testimony (OCAPIA, OCBA, OCHA) *

The Importance of Equity in the School Funding Formula, Testimony (OCAPIA, OCBA, OCHA, OCFW)

* Indicates that bill passed

“The Advocacy Commissions serve an important role by weighing in with legislative testimony on issues of importance for their communities across Oregon. Their viewpoint contributes to legislators’ understanding of key issues and raises awareness on lesser known, emerging issues.” — Senator Rod Monroe

Health/Healthcare

2013

HB 3364, Integrated Pest Management, Testimony (OCFW) *

HB 3407, Establish Commission on Traditional Health Care Workers, Testimony (OCHA) *

2014

SB 1569A, OHA to Establish a List of Chemicals Harmful to Children, Testimony (OCHA)

HB 4085, Full Coverage of Colorectal Screening and Removal, Testimony (OCFW) *

Justice, Safety and Policing

2013

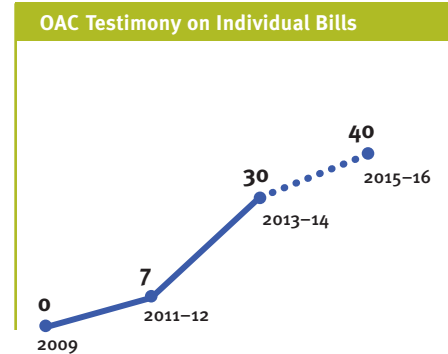
SB 833, Short-Term Driver Card, Testimony (OCHA) *

HB 2661A, Study on Public Safety Disparities, Testimony (OCAPIA, OCBA, OCHA, OCFW)

HB 2668, Public Accommodations on Public Property, Testimony (OCAPIA, OCBA, OCHA, OCFW) *

HB 3480, Civil Protections for Bias Crime, Testimony (OCAPIA, OCBA, OCFW)

HJR1, Amend Constitution to End Death Penalty, Testimony (OCBA, OCHA)



Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office

Advising policy, Growing leadership, Building success for Asian Pacific, Black, and Hispanic Oregonians and for Women

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Our mission

Created under the administrations of three governors, the statutory missions of the Advocacy Commissions have focused on advising policy, growing leadership and building success in Oregon for Asian Pacific, Black and Hispanic Oregonians and for women over our 30+ year history.

Our strategic priorities:

- Education
- Jobs and the Economy
- Healthcare
- Justice, Safety and Policing
- Civic Engagement
- Housing and Stable Families

“The Advocacy Commissions are important because they bring forward and advance the voices of historically disenfranchised and underrepresented communities in our state. They play a critical role in helping the general public, policy makers and governing bodies identify results-oriented solutions in an increasing multi-cultural marketplace.”

— FRANK GARCIA, SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR,
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR KITZHABER

Who we are

The four Oregon Advocacy Commissions are each composed of nine eminent community members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate along with two legislators appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House respectively.

“Oregon Advocacy Commissions are making a positive difference in the lives of Oregonians. They work to give underrepresented populations a voice, investing time and energy to conduct important research, analysis and public policy development to make our state stronger and more equitable.”

— COMMISSIONER BRAD AVAKIAN,
BUREAU OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES

What we do

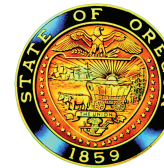
The Commission members work collaboratively to raise awareness regarding and address challenges facing communities of color and women in Oregon. We do this by researching issues, informing, and providing advice for state policy makers and decision makers including the Governor, legislators and departmental leadership on ways to improve the success of all Oregonians.

Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office (OACO) was created to support the work of the four Advocacy Commissions and the 44 Commissioners who serve on them. The Administrator and Executive Assistant staff 70+ meetings of the Commissions and their leadership biennially, coordinate events and work with partners, supervise public policy interns, provide service referrals, maintain the Commission websites, and support budgeting, reporting, and other work.

“Somewhere in America a state needs to be able to demonstrate that we can weather this kind of challenge without losing our sense of community, without losing our commitment to one another, and emerge stronger and more united than where we began. Let’s make that our state. Let’s make that state Oregon.”

— GOVERNOR JOHN KITZHABER, 2011 INAUGURAL SPEECH



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Oregon Advocacy Commissions

Asian and Pacific
Islander Affairs
OCAPIA

Black Affairs
OCBA

Hispanic Affairs
OCHA

Commission for Women
OCFW

Advising policy
Growing leadership
Building success

Our current initiatives

Proposing policy. The Commissions authored and are championing HB 2226 on confidential name change for domestic violence survivors, and an Executive Order on gender parity for Oregon Boards.

Education equity briefs. We're writing a series of key policy briefs with the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) on disproportionate discipline, English Language Learners, and teacher diversity.

Wage equity and status report. In partnership with BOLI we researched new census data for factors influencing wage equity including race, education, and job class. We reported our findings to BOLI's Council on Civil Rights and in the OCFW 2013 Status of Oregon Women Report.

Legislative advocacy. With community partners, the Commissions are talking with legislators and testifying on issues essential for success of all Oregonians.

Strengthening hate crime protections. In collaboration with DOJ Office of Civil Rights, and the Governor's Office we researched Oregon's protections from hate crimes and produced a report that is the basis of Commission support for policy that strengthens all remedies for victims of hate.

Growing tomorrow's leaders

The Advocacy Commissions work to grow the number and influence of leaders of color and women within all branches of state government, its key initiatives, departmental leadership, and policy work. To do that the Commissions reach out to youth, communities of color, and women to instill the desire to serve and create pathways to leadership.

The Oregon Women Firsts poster highlighting Oregon's diverse group of First Women Leaders throughout its history and distributed to every middle school statewide. OCFW in sponsorship with the PSU Center for Women, Politics and Policy

The New American Voters Project: Commissioners and community partners registered over three thousand new voters during naturalization ceremonies and community events. OCHA and OCAPIA working with the Secretary of State's Office.

The Governor's Diversity and Inclusion Kitchen Cabinet: the Advocacy Commission leadership joined the Cabinet of State leaders who plan and direct diversity outreach, recruitment and retention statewide. OCAPIA, OCBA, OCHA, OCFW

Success with community partners

The Advocacy Commissions work collaboratively with community and governmental partners to pursue their missions. Together they plan legislative advocacy, host joint legislative days at the Capitol, conduct voter registration, hold community and business forums, and conduct research.

Our partners include:

- Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO)
- Urban League of Portland
- Oregon Latino Health Coalition
- Oregon Latino Agenda for Action (OLAA)
- League of Women Voters
- American Association of University Women (AAUW)
- Center for Intercultural Organizing (CIO)
- Governor's Office on Diversity and Inclusion

"I strongly support partnering with the Oregon Advocacy Commissions as well as other government, educational and civic organizations in support of public policy internships. These partnerships leverage collective knowledge and expertise in civil rights and serve to help ensure equality for all Oregonians."

— OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL ELLEN ROSENBLUM

Policy research and analysis

The Advocacy Commissions provide Masters, PhD, and Law students with public policy internships addressing our priority areas. Topics include:

- Hate crime protections
- Minority procurement contracting
- Health outcomes
- Wage equity
- Education gaps
- Fair housing

The internships are conducted jointly with state partners and the Governor's Office to research statistics, best practices, or policies; analyze gaps and trends; produce reports used by the Advocacy Commissions and their partners to inform new policies, strategic approaches and legislation.

"As a law student, the internship on hate crimes was important to me because it helps my goal of creating positive change in society with visible results."

— WESLEY GARCIA, WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW STUDENT, INTERN FOR OCHA AND OCBA



Advocacy

Leadership

Partnership

Internship

Oregon Advocacy Commissions' Public Policy Research

2013–15 Work



The Oregon Advocacy Commissions (OAC)

and public policy research go together. It is part of our statutory missions. The goal of the research is to provide essential data and practice review, analysis, and recommendations for policy improvements in areas of strategic interest to the Commissions. The research is in collaboration with the OAC's, state and community partners and Oregon Universities.

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Education

The primary strategic priority of each of the 4 Advocacy Commissions is addressing education disparities among students of color and women. The future of Oregon depends on successful education for all Oregonians from pre-kindergarten through higher education and the trades.

Disproportionate discipline in schools:

Prepared 2 white papers comparing national and local successful models, and school policy remedies shown to decrease exclusion for students of color while maintaining classroom discipline.

Partners: OCBA with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), Oregon School Discipline Advisory Council, Governor's Office, and Willamette School of Law.



Justice, Safety and Policing

Overrepresentation of communities of color in the justice and corrections systems, hate crime and stalking protections, profiling, sentencing, community policing and training, death penalty concerns, human trafficking and access to justice are strategic issues for the Oregon Advocacy Commissions.

Status of hate crime protections in

Oregon. Preparatory to proposing legislation, researched and prepared white paper on hate crime statutes,

"The sound, comprehensive studies now emerging from the internship program at the office of the Advocacy Commissions...have increased the capacity, the efficiency and the effectiveness of the commissions themselves, and their value to the communities they represent and the State as a whole." — REP. LEW FREDERICK

reporting and training in Oregon; review and analysis of the statutory language to identify and propose areas for improvement.

Partners: OCHA and OCBA with the DOJ Civil Rights Unit, the Governor's Offices of Diversity and Public Safety, and Willamette Law School.



Healthcare

Access to care and health coverage, culturally competent care, health education, health disparities, and better health outcomes for all are part of the strategic work of the Advocacy Commissions.

Oregon Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker

Health Status Report. Literature review and analysis of health status studies and articles on migrant farmworker health in Oregon in areas including: healthcare access, cancer, chemicals exposure, oral health, reproductive health, and prenatal care.

Partners: OCHA with the Oregon Health Authority Office of Multicultural Health Services (now OHA Office of Equity and Inclusion) and the Governor's Office.



Jobs and the Economy

Policy that affects wage equity, labor trafficking, career paths, diverse workforce and leadership, small business development, respectful workplaces and attainment is part of the strategic work of the Advocacy Commissions for jobs and the economy.

Disproportionate attainment for tradespeople of color from Apprentice to

Journeyman: Developed 2 white papers analyzing BOLI/PSU data on matriculation and progress among tradespeople of color leading to their graduation to Journeyman status, review of national models of success, and recommendations for policy, training and oversight.

Partners: OCBA with BOLI Apprenticeship Program, the Governor's Office on Workforce, the PSU Hatfield School and Lewis and Clark Law School.

(additional research projects on back)

(continued from front)



Education

Education disparities: Researched and prepared 3 of 7 policy briefs describing disparities affecting ELL, disproportionate discipline, family engagement, chronic absenteeism, graduation rates, diverse teaching staff, and college/community college completion rates.

Partners: OCHA, OCAPIA, and OCBA with the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB), Governor’s Office and PSU Graduate School of Education.



Justice, Safety and Policing

Human Trafficking of Children for Sex in Multnomah County. As part of the first longitudinal study nationally of the sexual exploitation of children, conducted research on the backgrounds, corrections history, and demographic data of those convicted of selling children for sex in Multnomah County.

Partners: The 4 Advocacy Commissions with the US Attorney’s Office, the Governor’s Office of Public Safety, the Multnomah County Sherriff’s Department and the PSU Hatfield School of Public Policy.



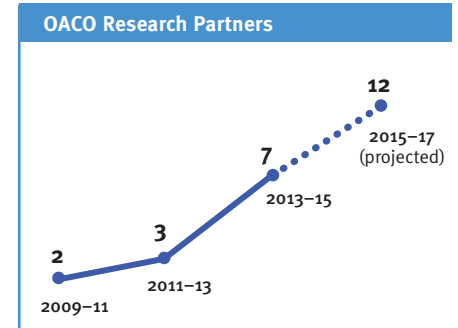
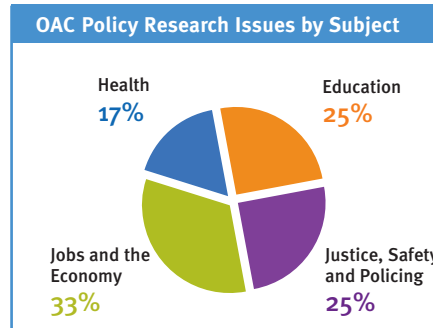
Jobs and the Economy

Wage disparity among Oregon women and workers of color: Researched and developed a data overview of specific Oregon wage disparities among women and workers of color in support of the equal pay policy work of the BOLI Oregon Civil Rights Council.

Partners: OCFW, the Governor’s Office, Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) Oregon Council on Civil Rights (OCCR.)

“I strongly support partnering with the Oregon Advocacy Commissions as well as other government, educational and civic organizations in support of public policy internships. These partnerships leverage collective knowledge and expertise in civil rights and serve to help ensure equality for all Oregonians.”

—OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL ELLEN ROSENBLUM



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— OREGON LABOR COMMISSIONER BRAD AVAKIAN

“The OACs have worked in partnership with the OEIB to create issue briefs in support of critical equity issues with our education system impacting student outcomes: Disproportionate Discipline, Chronic Absenteeism and Support for English Language Learners. The completed briefs have been a tremendous asset to our team as we’ve worked on developing policy and investment recommendations to empower and support Oregon students experiencing some of the barriers associated with these issues...I am deeply appreciative of the partnership with the Oregon Advocacy Commissions and look forward to future opportunities to work together to elevate key issues impacting Oregon students.”

—DR. NANCY GOLDEN, CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER, OEIB



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