## **Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs**

"Advocating Equality and Diversity" 1819 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97201 O 503.302.9725/F 503.473.8519 Email: <u>oaco.mail@oregon.gov</u> Website: <u>www.oregon.gov/Hispanic</u>

## **OR Commission on Hispanic Affairs**

Chair: Alberto Moreno

Vice Chair: John Haroldson

Commissioners: Andrea Cano Gilbert P. Carrasco Cynthia Gomez Diego Hernandez Judith Parker

Legislative Liaisons: Sen. Chip Shields Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson

## Staff:

Lucy Baker, Administrator Nancy Kramer, Executive Asst.



OCHA Testimony in Favor of HB 2478

House Rules Committee 3 pm, May 6, 2015

Chair Hoyle, Vice Chairs Smith Warner and Gilliam and Representatives Barnhart, Kennemer, McLane, Nosse, Rayfield, and Wilson:

The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA) joins with other civil rights organizations in supporting you as you vote for HB 2478 to amend old wording to assure gender neutrality in marriage related statutes.

OCHA shares with you a deep appreciation of family, caring, and the love that makes Oregon a great state for every person. There is no more important support for commited couples and their families than the statutes associated with the marriage contract itself. To assure that all loving couples have the same welcome and protections in Oregon statutes as they commit to each other in marriage, we urge you to amend all associated statutes to reflect gender neutral wording.

Thank you for your positive consideration of HB 2478 which makes this important change.

Sincerely

plat 3

Chair, Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Kate Brown Governor