



ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN NETWORK OF OREGON

Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) is the state's oldest, grassroots organization committed to uniting Asians and Pacific Islanders. We leverage the collective strength of our 7,000 statewide members to advance equity through empowering, organizing, and advocating with our communities.

We believe every child matters and deserves the rights, resources, and opportunities to thrive. Over 70 organizations, from healthcare providers, insurers, and community advocates agree. Together, we believe children should have access to affordable healthcare regardless of their citizenship status.

Children must have healthy beginnings if they are to reach their full potential. Children who have fallen into the achievement gap are often the same children who experience health disparities, come from working poor households, and face instability in their daily lives. We can work to reverse this cycle. While we have made significant progress in expanding coverage throughout the state, this progress has yet to reach Oregon's most vulnerable children.

We've come together before to address this issue, as evidenced by the bipartisan bill in 2015. We come together again in hopes the legislature will acknowledge the importance of investing in all of our youth.

Thank you,

Kristina Narayan

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