

The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

2015 - 2017 Report to the Governor and the Legislature



1 ABOUT THE OREGON COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS

Our vision:

We serve the people of Oregon to empower and support Latinos through our special roles as policy advisors to Oregon state policy makers and leaders. The OCHA is a catalyst that empowers partnerships between state government and Hispanic communities in rural and urban areas to ensure success for all Latinos by addressing issues at the policy level.

Our mission:

Organized in its current role under Governor Atiyeh, and serving 7 administrations, the mission of the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs is to work toward economic, social, political and legal equality for Oregon's Hispanic population

Our principles and Values:

- Equity for Hispanic Oregonians in jobs and the economy, education, health, safety, family stability, environment, and civic engagement.
- Equal treatment and protection against discrimination.
- Access to helpful information on services and available resources.
- Working in partnership on research and policy analysis of longstanding issues and barriers to success within the Hispanic community statewide.
- Inclusion of viewpoints of the Hispanic community in policy making at the state level.
- Celebration of and awareness about the contributions and achievements of Hispanic Oregonians.

Our Statutory Goals and Strategic Priorities

- Advocate for equitable policies assuring the success of Latino and Hispanic Oregonians at the state level.
- Engage community and state partners to promote equity for Latinos statewide.
- Study and analyze issues affecting the Hispanic community statewide and recommend policy remedies to state policy makers.
- Grow and develop leaders the Hispanic community at the state level in all branches.

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- Increase the viability and visibility of the contributions and achievements of Hispanic Oregonians statewide.

OCHA is actively engaged in its statutory work focused on 7 Strategic Priorities each biennium.

These are:

1. Education
2. Jobs and the economy
3. Healthcare
4. Justice, safety and policing
5. Stable families and housing
6. Environmental Justice/Equity
7. Civic engagement

Who we are:

The OCHA is composed of nine distinguished community members who are 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.

See OCHA member bios:

<http://www.oregon.gov/Hispanic/Pages/members.aspx>



OCHA Commission members 2015-17

Appointed by the Governor

Alberto Moreno - Chair, Portland
Linda Irma Castillo – Vice Chair, Portland
Andrea Cano, Past Chair, Portland
Gilbert Carrasco, Portland
Dr. Daniel López-Cevallos, Corvallis
Cynthia Gomez, Portland
John Haroldson, Past Vice Chair, Corvallis
Diego Hernandez, Past Vice Chair, Portland
Judith Parker, Forest Grove
Marisa Salinas, Salem

Appointed by the President of the Senate

Senator Chip Shields, Portland

Appointed by the Speaker of the House

Representative Jessica Vega Pederson, Portland

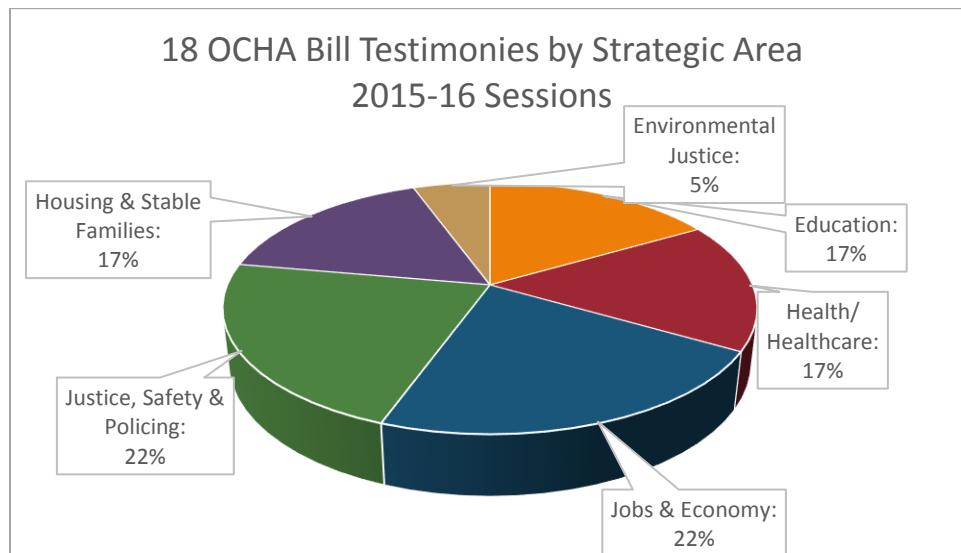
What we do:

The Commission members work collaboratively to raise awareness and address challenges facing Hispanic and Latino populations across the state. We do this by researching issues, informing discussions and providing advice for state policy makers, including the Governor, legislators and departmental leaders, on ways to improve the success of our communities

throughout Oregon. We promote leadership of Latinos in state decision-making around issues that affect our lives and our success by recommending Latino leaders to the Governor for appointments to boards and commissions, and to the legislature for participation on taskforces and workgroups. Each legislative session OCHA commissioners go to the capitol and work with our community partners and legislators to support equitable policymaking in OCHA's 7 priority areas, testifying in support of bills that level the playing field for success and tracking these bills through the legislative process.

2 OCHA STATUTORY ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2015 - 2017

ADVOCACY



The OCHA monitored 40+ bills in 7 strategic areas for the 2015 and 2016 legislative sessions and submitted testimony on 18 bills before legislative committees. OCHA's testimonies emphasize the importance of the Hispanic and Latino communities' state wide in legislation concerning core strategic areas including: Justice, Safety and Policing, Jobs and Economy, Education, and Healthcare.

OCHA leads the OAC's in passage of historic bills for Latinos and underrepresented communities in 2015/2016 Sessions:

- HB 4128, Immigration consultant fraud penalties and protections. PASSED
- HB 3517A, Health coverage for all children. PASSED
- HB 4017, OHA Basic Health Plan. PASSED
- HB 3304A, Landscape certification in alternate formats. PASSED
- HB 2478, Gender neutral statute wording for marriage. PASSED

OCHA LEADERSHIP ON NOTARIO FRAUD WITH KEY PARTNERS

In 2015, OCHA helped craft and pass HB 3525, sponsored by Rep. Joe Gallegos and Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson, which established a legislative taskforce to study and frame legislation imposing penalties on immigration consultant and Notario fraud. The resulting legislation, introduced in 2016, was sponsored by Sen. Gelser and Rep. Vega Pederson and developed collaboratively between all the parties represented on the taskforce, giving law enforcement a tool to investigate, charge, and prosecute egregious violations of Oregon's *unlawful practice of law* statute and supports victims of those crimes to engage with law enforcement.



OCHA led the Oregon Advocacy Commissions in supporting the legislation with invited testimony before the House Judiciary Committee which passed HB 4128 on Notario Fraud in 2016. In all, the Notario Fraud legislation was a collaborative effort beginning in 2015 and passing in 2016, with OCHA leading the OAC's over the entire process. OCHA Chair, Alberto Moreno, said of the effort, *"OCHA's leadership with legislators and community partners resulting in the notario fraud legislation was an important win for Latinos and other immigrant communities statewide and an example of the important role of the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs in bringing issues to light and building coalitions of community and state experts to solve them."*

See the full bill of HB 4128 on Notario Fraud in Appendix A.

2015-16 OCHA PRIORITY BILLS

Education

1. SB 187A, Student data protection, Testimony, (OCHA and OAC's), PASSED – 2015
2. SB 215, OEIB sunset, Testimony, Testimony, (OCHA and OAC's), PASSED – 2015
3. HB 3308A, HECC group on disparities, Testimony, (OCHA and OAC's), PASSED – 2015

Jobs/Economy

4. SB 454A, Employer sick time benefits, Testimony, (OCHA and OAC's) PASSED – 2015
5. HB 2005, Employer sick time benefits, Testimony, (OCHA and OAC's) PASSED – 2015
6. HB 2734, Brownfield contamination remediation, Testimony, (OCHA, OCBA) PASSED – 2015

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7. HB 3304A, Landscape certification in alternate formats, Testimony, (OCHA) PASSED – 2015

Healthcare

8. HB 4017, OHA Basic Health Plan, Testimony, (OCHA, OCAPIA, OCBA) PASSED – 2016
9. HB4071, COFA premium assistance, Testimony, (OCHA and OAC's) PASSED – 2016
10. HB 3517A, Health coverage for all children, Testimony, (OCHA) PASSED – 2015



Justice, Safety and Policing

11. HB 4128, Immigration consultant fraud, Testimony and floor letter, (OCHA and OAC's) PASSED - 2016
12. HB 2002, CJC for profiling complaints, Testimony, (OCHA and OAC's), PASSED – 2015
13. HB 2205, Fund to end commercial exploitation of children for sex, Testimony, (OCHA, OCAPIA, OCFW), PASSED – 2015
14. HB 3525, Reporting immigrant consultant abuse, Testimony, (OCHA, OCAPIA) PASSED 2015

Stable Families and Housing

15. SB 1533A, Inclusionary zoning, Testimony, Testimony, (OCHA and OAC's), PASSED – 2016
16. HB 2478, Gender neutral statute wording for marriage, Testimony, (OCHA), PASSED – 2015
17. SB 939, Programs for children of incarcerated parents, Testimony, (OCHA and OAC's), PASSED – 2015

Environmental Equity/Justice

18. SB 1547, Clean energy and community solar, Testimony, Testimony, (OCHA and OAC's) PASSED – 2016

2015 JOINT LEGISLATIVE DAY WITH THE OREGON LATINO HEALTH COALITION



The OCHA joined its community partner the Oregon Latino Health Coalition (OLHC) for a joint Legislative Day at the Capitol in 2015 and 2016. OCHA Commissioner joined the other attendees including Latino community and faith leaders, college students, parents and their children from around the state. The large group of participants gathered in HR 50 in the Capitol to be welcomed with presentations from legislators and other leaders. OCHA Commissioners and others visited in small groups for scheduled meetings with individual legislators and caucus staff on primary issues including notario fraud and health coverage for children.

PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

The OCHA provides Masters, PhD, and Law students with for-credit public policy internships addressing our strategic priorities. The research is conducted jointly with state partners, and the Governor's Office to study data, best practices, effective policies, literature review, analyze gaps, suggest remedies and produce reports used by the Advocacy Commissions and their partners to inform new policies, develop strategic approaches and craft bills that improve the success of women and girls statewide.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DISPARITIES OF LATINO OREGONIANS: ASSOCIATED CONSEQUENCES, AND STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS GAPS

In the spring of 2017, OCHA is partnering with DHS and OHA to conduct its first joint study of disparities in mental health services delivery and access by Oregon Latinos. The outcomes of the study will inform strategies to address services gaps and policy recommendations for improved access and service provision statewide. The study will include analysis of user data, provider interviews, review of national and Oregon best practices; statutory or administrative barriers, lessons learned, a needs or gap analysis and suggested next steps. The research will consider disparities in mental health, access to services for Latino OHP members, language and other barriers that are preventing mental health care from being more accessible will be identified by this research. The partners for this research are OCHA with the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), Oregon Health Administration (OHA), Office of Equity

and inclusion (OEI), and the Governor's Office. The first set of outcomes will be available at <http://www.oregon.gov/Hispanic/Pages/index.aspx> in June, 2017.

OCHA APPOINTED TO 2015 LEGISLATIVE TASKFORCE ON IMMIGRATION CONSULTANT FRAUD AND SUPPORTS PASSAGE OF HB 4128

Over the summer of 2015, the Governor appointed OCHA Commissioner, Judy Parker, to represent the Commission on a legislative taskforce on Immigration Fraud, Co-chaired by Senator Gelser and Representative Vega Pederson. The work of the taskforce, which produced a successful 2016 bill on the subject, focused on penalties for Notario or Immigration Fraud which is an illegal practice of falsely representing oneself as an immigration expert in order to defraud vulnerable immigrants. During its meetings, the Task Force analyzed the existing provisions of ORS 9.280, ORS 9.990, ORS 162.235, ORS 162.365, and ORS chapter 194. Consistent with its charge, the Task Force explored amending criminal and civil

"For me, the Oregon Advocacy Commissions (OAC's) serve a crucial role by connecting the legislature with issues important to our diverse communities. Through the network and connections of OAC's Commissioners, issues like immigration consultant fraud, paid sick time, and the ban on racial profiling by law enforcement officers have been made priorities for the legislature. The OAC's support and advocacy are critical to the progress that we have made in the legislature on creating policies representative of all Oregonians."

Representative Jessica Vega Pederson

regulatory statutes. The Task Force discussed providing law enforcement with improved tools to fight notario fraud, and expanding the Secretary of State's regulatory authority over notaries who engage in the unlawful practice of law. The Task Force also discussed amending ORS 164.075, Oregon's Theft by Extortion statute, ORS 162.235, Oregon's Obstruction of Justice statute and ORS 162.365, Oregon's Criminal Impersonation statute. See the final report of the taskforce [here](#).

The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs, in coalition with the other Advocacy Commissions, testified in support of the resulting 2016 bill, HB 4128, which addressed a serious issue in Latino and other immigrant communities – that of unlicensed non-lawyer “immigration consultants” (often referred to as “notarios”) which prey on certain members of the public. Unlicensed immigration consultants were already prohibited under ORS 9.280, but prior to passage of HB 4128, when someone applied for a notary public license, the Secretary of State had no discretion to deny it. Likewise, there were few tools for prosecutors to use to indict and bring to trial individuals who had violated the public's trust by pretending to be a fully licensed notario or the equivalent of an immigration consultant.

The passage of HB 4128 in 2016 gave law enforcement a tool to investigate, charge, and prosecute egregious violations of Oregon's unlawful practice of law statute. It also encourages victims of those crimes to feel comfortable meeting with law enforcement.

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This legislation was the product of the taskforce involving the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs, representatives of the Oregon Department of Justice, District Attorneys, the Oregon Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, the Oregon State Bar, the Secretary of State's office, and the Human Trafficking Unit of Multnomah County Sheriff's Office.

OCHA'S WORK IN SUPPORT OF OREGON'S INCLUSIVE SOCIAL STUDIES

In 2013, Senator Jackie Winters sponsored a bill that made OCHA and the Advocacy Commissions partners with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) in building a set of resources to help make Social Studies curricula in grade schools inclusive of the contributions of Oregon's diverse citizenry over its history. That accomplished, OCHA commissioners Dr. Daniel Lopez Cevallos and Diego Hernandez were invited to participate in ODE's Inclusive Social Studies Summit where educators and experts statewide came together in July, 2016 to review and comment on ODE's new standards for inclusive social studies pedagogy. OCHA's contributions on that day and the OAC's interest going forward will help set and then monitor Oregon's success in making its social studies representative of the notable contributions communities of color to our great state.

OCHA 2015-17 BUDGET WIN FOR ADDITIONAL COMMISSION STAFF

OCHA Chair, Alberto Moreno joined the OACO Administrator and the Chairs from the Oregon Commissions on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA,) Black Affairs (OCBA,) and Commission for Women (OCFW) to present the Advocacy Commissions' budget request to the Joint Ways and Means General Government Committee requesting that they invest in adding a Policy Analyst to the administrative staff of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office (OACO) which supports OCHA and the other Advocacy Commissions. The legislature agreed and approved a new budget for OACO that added its first Policy Analyst position to assist with legislative analysis, bill tracking, policy research, and supporting the statutory work of the OCHA and OAC's. The new Policy Analyst is the first new position the two person OACO office has had since its inception in 2005 and represents the maturing importance to policy makers of the wise counsel and support of the Advocacy Commissions to their work and building success for communities of color and women and girls statewide.

