



April 4, 2017

Dear Chair and Co-Chair of the Joint Ways and Means' General Government Committee: Co-Chair, Senator James Manning, Co-Chair, Representative Greg Smith, and members Sen. Betsy Johnson, Sen. Alan DeBoer, Rep. Julie Fahey, Rep. David Gomberg, Rep. Pam Marsh, and Rep. Mike Nearman:

On behalf of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, we are writing to ask for your continued support for the Oregon Advocacy Commission.

We believe the OAC deserves support for many reasons, chief among them being:

Small investments in OAC staffing have created big dividends in equity policy outcomes for the Advocacy Commission's' agenda. What is a small investment by the legislature in terms of the overall state budget, means a huge difference in equity related policy outcomes for Oregonians of color and women statewide from the Advocacy Commissions. The additional .5 FTE Policy Analyst added by the 2015 legislature has already boosted the advocacy and public policy research by the Advocacy Commissions this biennium.

Policy research by the OAC's with state and community partners has doubled its researchers and there is a backlog of interest. The Policy Analyst position is key to growing the statutory work of the Advocacy Commissions in public policy research. The seven research projects the Advocacy Commissions are doing that affect everything from state requirements on contractors for inclusion of apprentices of color in the trades to initiating the first study on mental health and Latinos in Oregon in 15 years. But the number of projects doesn't tell the full story of how the complexity and the number of Masters, PhD, and 3L Law research interns have grown. The OAC's model of policy research is now being recognized as a best practice within state government and the word is out with a backlog of interest by all the OAC's research partners: ODE, OHA, DHS, BOLI and others. The added staff support of the Policy Analyst is needed now to allow this backlog to ease with important policy research.

If you have any additional questions, please free to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration.

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