

**Kate Brown**  
Governor



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February 8, 2018  
House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee  
Re: Scheduling a work session for HB 4141

Dear Chair Reardon, Vice Chair Alonso Leon, and Representatives Whisnant, Bynum, Clem, Heard, Noble, Reschke, and Sollman:

The Oregon Commissions on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, Black Affairs, and Hispanic Affairs are writing to you to support your consideration of scheduling HB 4141 for a work session. We feel the testimony it received at its hearing is indicative of the need for this bill, which if passed, will establish an advisory council for state universities that will help provide a process for further consideration of tuition increase decisions.

The Advocacy Commissions believe we need such a process to help consider fully the impact on students and families. We must recognize that simply shifting the cost of higher education to families is not the best way to support our higher education goals. If tuitions continue to increase unchecked, the result will continue the trend toward a two-tiered system of haves and have nots. We must continue to seek ways and develop processes that will lead to more equitable and thoughtful pathways toward a healthy and educated workforce for our state. Such an advisory council is a step in a good direction.

Respectfully,

Dr. Joseph Gallegos, Commissioner  
Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Chanpone Sinlapasai-Okamura, Chair, Oregon Commission on Asian Affairs

James Morris, Chair, Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

Alberto Moreno, Chair, Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Cc: Laura Kentnesse  
Matthew Tenney

**OR Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs**

Chanpone Sinlapasai-Okamura, Chair  
David Yuen Tam, Vice Chair  
Legislative Liaisons:  
Senator Michael Dembrow  
Representative Carla Piluso

**OR Commission on Black Affairs**

James Morris, Chair  
Musse Olol, Vice Chair  
Legislative Liaisons:  
Senator Rod Monroe  
Representative Janelle Bynum

**OR Commission on Hispanic Affairs**

Alberto Moreno, Chair  
Irma Linda Castillo, Vice Chair  
Legislative Liaisons:  
Senator Sara Gelser  
Representative Teresa Alonso León

**OR Commission for Women**

Dr. Barbara Spencer, Chair  
Kim Olson, Vice Chair  
Legislative Liaisons:  
Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson  
Representative Sheri Malstrom

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