



People of Color Caucus
Oregon Legislature

Dear President Courtney, Speaker Kotek and members of the Oregon Emergency Board,

While families across the state are experiencing hardship, we'd like to thank you for your continued efforts in reducing the spread of COVID-19 and in identifying solutions to provide aid to impacted Oregonians.. As legislators, we must rise to meet the needs of our most impacted. As reported by OPB, the Latinx community in Oregon is being disproportionately affected by the coronavirus and thousands of Oregon families have been excluded from federal aid and unemployment insurance (UI) due to their immigration status. As we move forward in responding to the needs of Oregonians we want to highlight the words of Cesar Chavez, *"History will judge societies and governments — and their institutions — not by how big they are or how well they serve the rich and the powerful, but by how effectively they respond to the needs of the poor and the helpless."*

In Oregon, we can take a critical step towards responding to the needs of our communities by supporting the Oregon Worker Relief Fund (OWRF). The Oregon Worker Relief Fund was formed by over 100 community based organizations from across the state, focusing on getting resources into the hands of workers who have been or are being laid off and who do not qualify for unemployment insurance or other government aid due to their immigration status. This fund is meant to reach taxpayers who have contributed to payroll, state and federal taxes, but because they hold a mixed immigration-status or are ITIN holders, they do not qualify for UI and other public aid. The infrastructure developed by the OWRF coalition would designate the Oregon Community Foundation to help disperse funding to households facing food and housing insecurity by replacing up to 60% - 70% of lost wages for Oregonians who are currently disqualified from receiving unemployment insurance benefits or other temporary wage-replacing programs. The goal of the fund is to reach people across the state in a culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate manner through community based organizations with experience in providing direct services.

The People of Color Caucus respectfully requests that you support funding for the Oregon Worker Relief Fund to ensure we are reaching all of our communities across the state.

Respectfully,
People of Color Caucus



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Oregon House of
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House District 22



Lew Frederick
Oregon State Senate
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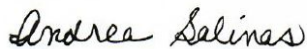
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