



Testimony in Support of LC 45-Section 48
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SEIU Oregon State Council
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Chairs Courtney and Kotek, and Members of the Committee:

While the legislature created a process for the state to collect Race, Ethnicity, Language and Disability (REAL D) data in 2013, today Oregon still lacks the statutory authority necessary to require health care providers to collect and report this important information. SEIU Oregon strongly supports creating such a requirement. Lacking this information and in time of public health crisis Oregon's Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color are suffering at a disproportionate rate, and we lack the information necessary to appropriately respond.

Long term, REAL D data is vital in our work to address the health disparities that underrepresented communities face. The pandemic has put in stark relief the urgent need to collect and use this information to get services to the communities most in need. REAL D data will allow us to unmask inequalities by using granular data by race, ethnicity, language, and disability. Once we better understand inequities, both among and within these demographics, we can use this information to improve access to care, design culturally appropriate and accessible interventions to improve preventive care and treatment and allocate resources appropriate to target our Coronavirus relief investments where it is most needed.

SEIU Oregon strongly supports requiring health care practitioners to gather and report REAL D data and urges your adoption of this provision in LC 45, Section 48.