



To:

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government
jwmgg.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

February 26, 2019

Dear Co-Chair Wagner, Co-Chair Smith, and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government:

On behalf of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), I'm writing to express our **support for the expansion and increased funding for the Oregon Advocacy Commissions (OAC)**. Specifically, we ask that the OAC Research and Policy Analyst position, currently held by Dr. Connie Kim-Gervey, is made a permanent, full-time position.

Asians and Pacific Islanders (API) are the fastest growing demographic in Oregon. We are over 250,000 in Oregon, nearly 6% of the state population. We are a diverse community, representing over 100 ethnic, cultural and linguistic groups. We need an Advocacy Commission to empower our community, advocate and inform the Executive Agencies about our issues, and provide important institutional memory year to year around the increased rights, recognition, and resources our growing API need to be equal and valued members of our state.

The Oregon Commission for Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA) has been a proud partner in support of APANO's policy advocacy and community organizing work to bring more API Oregonians into our civic life. They have continually sponsored and financially assisted in organizing APANO's Lobby Days, enabling us to offer scholarships at no cost to our participants. OCAPIA has also understood the importance of growing a pipeline of public servants that can continue to shape the future of Oregon. OCAPIA was an instrumental partner in bringing in the Asian Pacific American Institute of Congressional Studies (APAICS) to Portland for a Regional Leadership Training this past July 2018. Furthermore, OCAPIA has annually provided scholarships to our youth groups, Asian Leaders for the Liberation of Youth (ALLY) and Oregon Nesian Youths for Change in Society (ONYCS), to participate in leadership trainings and regional conferences.

As an equity-focused advocate for all branches of government, it is imperative that the OACs are informed by data-driven, narrative-backed, disaggregated and community validated research to meet the needs of the communities the OACs so proudly serve. To do this requires an investment in a permanent Research and Policy Analyst to meet the needs of the commission and memorialize the progress we accomplish session to session.



We thank you for your time and consideration, and urge the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government to accept the OAC's budget proposal.

Sincerely,
Ivy Major-McDowall
Legislative Coordinator
APANO