



RE: HB 5001 - Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government

Co-Chair Wagner, and Co-Chair Smith, and Members of the Committee,

PCUN would like to enthusiastically express support for HB 5001, and for the work, research projects, policy support, knowledge, and advocacy that the Oregon Advocacy Commissions bring to our legislature, and the Oregon community.

PCUN, is Oregon's Farmworker Union. We represent farmworkers, and Latinx working families in the Mid-Willamette Valley. We've worked on a range of issues, research projects, and education efforts with the advocacy commissions. Of course, our community has participated extensively with the Commission on Hispanic Affairs, because of our membership base. But, PCUN has also worked with all the commissions at many levels, and have valued the bridging of communities, and open lines of communication that its created with Commission on Black Affairs, Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, Oregon Commission for Women.

The staff and commissioners have been key partners, and resources throughout our time working in the Oregon Legislature, and supporting us in our goal of bridging communications gaps between immigrant and Latinx communities in the Mid-Willamette Valley and the Oregon Legislature. PCUN has collaborated with the commissions to support our Proclamation of Cesar Chavez Day, Latino Contributions Report with our sister organization Causa Oregon's Immigrant Rights Organization, and many other efforts to encourage communities to engage in their legislature. Also - Oregon's Advocacy Commissions have been an essential part in community of color grassroots issues coming up in the Oregon legislature. Issues like Tuition Equity, and Oregon Voting Rights Act, which Oregon Commission on Black Affairs supported from its inception.

We'd love to see OAC's increase their capacity to do more of this much needed research and advocacy assistance work for Oregon's communities. That is why we also support making the Research and Policy Analyst position, currently held by Dr. Connie Kim-Gervey, permanent and full-time. Thank you for your consideration. Please support HB 5001.

Regards,

Reyna Lopez
PCUN, Executive Director
300 Young Street, Woodburn, Oregon 97071