



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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Co-Chair Wagner, Co-Chair Smith and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government,



I wanted to take a moment to highlight a partnership DHS and Oregonians share with the Oregon Advocacy Commission Office (OACO). The mission of the Department of Human Services (DHS) is to help Oregonians in their own communities achieve safety, well-being and independence through services that protect, empower, respect choice and preserve dignity. However, we cannot do this work without partnerships with organizations such as the OACO, who act in a supporting and leadership role for the advancement of meeting the needs of women and populations of color.

As Oregon's population continues to grow and diversify, the role of the Oregon Advocacy Commission Office becomes ever more vital and essential to the growing and vibrant economy of this great state and its residents. However, as communities have grown in Oregon, the funding for these important commissions has decreased. DHS seeks to be an organization using trauma-informed approaches and culturally responsive best practices and OACO is a partner with us in doing that. We are especially pleased to be working with the OACO on a project to reduce bias in data.

The OAC is an important partner in our work and DHS is pleased to be able to support these essential commissions.

Sincerely,

Fariborz Pakseresht

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"