



April 2, 2019

Chair Salinas, Vice-Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Basic Rights Oregon, I'm writing to respectfully request your support for HB 2011. Basic Rights Oregon is an organization that advocates for public policy that meets the needs of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) communities, and centers on racial and transgender justice. Given this mission, our organization strongly supports efforts to improve cultural competency in the provision of health care services. The hallmark of Cultural Competency is to understand the wholeness and complexity of individuals, their families and their communities— making HB 2011 a priority for LGBTQ Oregonians of all races and ethnicities.

Cultural competency for providers of health care services is important to the health and wellbeing of patients and clients. Increasing educational requirements and proficiency in this area contributes significantly to achieving optimal health outcomes. HB 2011 helps achieve the goal of ensuring services are provided in a way which is both sensitive and relevant to the cultural norms of those seeking care. Improving skills in this area is a benefit to both patients and providers.

Increasing access to health care and ensuring affordable health insurance will not improve health outcomes for underrepresented groups unless we improve patient–provider communication and work to overcome cultural and linguistic barriers.

Basic Rights Oregon supported HB 2611 in 2013 which attempted to address these barriers by providing that certain healthcare regulatory boards *may choose* to require cultural competency continuing education. While this law has resulted in some increase in the cultural competency education of our healthcare workforce, the majority of providers have still not received this training. HB 2011 would require this education which is a necessary next step to ensure that all Oregonians have equitable access to culturally and linguistically appropriate care.

We strongly encourage your support of this bill.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Haque". The signature is written in a cursive style.

*Nancy Haque*  
*Executive Director*  
*Basic Rights Oregon*