

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
421 SW Oak Street, Portland, OR 97204
O 503.302.9725
Email: oaco.mail@oregon.gov

Senate Committee on Health Care
Testimony in support of SB 770-1, amended
April 1, 2019, at 1 pm, Hearing Room A

Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice Chair Linthicum and Senators Beyer, Fagan, and Knopp:

The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA) and the Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW) and the Oregon Commission on API Affairs (OCAPIA), in their roles of advocates for communities of color and women, strongly support SB 770-1, amended, which establishes the Universal Health Care Commission, administered by the Health Care for All Oregon Board.

Oregon has taken many essential steps forward in assuring that all Oregonians have access to health care and the results have been dramatic. The number of children seen in clinics, shifting away from emergency room usage, and other signs that communities of color and women are seeing the intended benefits are building. The Oregon Advocacy Commissions have supported increases in Cover All Kids, health and dental services for COFA communities, prenatal care coverage, and other work the legislature has taken on to improve health and access for everyone. SB 770-1, amended, is the next important step that assures Oregon continues its leadership with engaged communities and key stakeholders, with policy makers to identify, analyze, engage, and recommend powerful, affordable ways to cover everyone. The new Universal Health Care Commission opens the road ahead to collaborative work among the key players, linked to policy makers, bringing best practices to market in Oregon.

The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs has been working closely with culturally specific provider stakeholders statewide, and its partners in OHA and DHS to study Mental Health (MH) and Latinos with OHA/DHS data over 10 years of usage. The results show the essential nature of Mental and Behavioral Health in the well-being of Latino youth and their families, who make up a robust segment of school referrals to MH specialists through school health clinics. Providing health access in places where communities and color, parents, and women routinely go, is an important part of making systems reach and be informed by underrepresented communities. And, assuring access to culturally and linguistically relevant service is rated as a primary indicator of success for many immigrant and refugee communities. As the legislature considers SB 770-1, amended, we encourage you to add Mental and Behavioral Health representatives to the statutory seats, and also require a leader experienced in advancing equity in health care, on the new Universal Health Care Commission, and assure that a member of the Commission represent culturally-specific providers/experts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this essential legislation, and your positive consideration of SB 770-1, amended.

Sincerely,

Irma Linda Castillo,
OCHA Chair

David Tam, OCAPIA
Vice-Chair

Dr. Barbara Spencer, OCFW
Chair

OR Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Chanpone Sinlapasai-Okamura, Chair
David Yuen Tam, Vice Chair
Legislative members:
Senator Michael Dembrow
Representative Carla Piluso

OR Commission on Black Affairs

Jamal Fox, Chair
Lawanda Manning, Vice Chair
Legislative members:
Representative Janelle Bynum

OR Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Irma Linda Castillo, Chair
Dr. Daniel López-Cevallos, Vice Chair
Legislative members:
Senator Sara Gelser
Representative Teresa Alonso León

OR Commission for Women

Dr. Barbara Spencer, Chair
Kim Olson, Vice Chair
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