



June 10, 2019

To: House Rules Committee
From: Zeenia Junkeer
Re: Support of HB 2005

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Zeenia Junkeer and I am the Director of the Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA), we cover the tri county region, including Washington, Multnomah and Clackamas Counties.

For OHEA, health equity is rooted in dismantling and shifting oppressive structural and systemic practices that affect individuals and communities' ability to thrive. Structures that do not support inclusive definitions of family and the systems that continue to make it hard for our communities to care for themselves and their loved ones need to shift to ensure individuals and families can thrive.

To this end, we are strong supporters of HB 2005-3 amendment. For OHEA, we are particularly excited about the opportunities for our communities of color, often working in jobs and sectors that do not offer paid time off or opportunities to take leave, to be centered in the FAMLI Equity Act. As we see continued attacks on families and LGBTQIA2+ communities, it imperative we advocate for the expanded and inclusive definition of family that centers the self determination of individuals and their families.

Communities are coming together across Oregon in support of this bill, and we are in support of stronger mechanisms for families to be supported and offered the time and support they need to care for their loved ones. We are counting on your support for this important piece of legislation.

In Health,

Zeenia Junkeer, ND
Director, Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA)