



THE OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

635 NE Dekum St, Portland, OR, 97211

Phone: (503) 286-0477

www.orstudents.org

February 3, 2020

Dear Chair Sanchez and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

As the Legislative Director of the Oregon Student Association, I am writing in support of House Bill 4107, the Non-Discrimination Act of 2020, which addresses “backdoor discrimination” or the practice of excluding certain groups based on racially specific characteristics.

The CROWN Act, included in HB 4107, is an issue our students—specifically at the University of Oregon—have worked extensively on combatting. Students in our postsecondary institutions often work multiple jobs while being a full-time student in order to overcome the institutional and financial barriers many face while earning their degree. While in these spaces, all our students have the right to feel safe, comfortable, and accepted. All students should be protected from discrimination—regardless of the way they express themselves, their background, or community.

Cash discrimination is another obstacle many of our students face—disproportionately affecting our students of color as research shows people of color are five times more likely to be “unbanked”. In addition, young people are often not well established in banking, which makes it difficult for them to access a credit line or acquiring a bank account. HB 4107 would ensure people experiencing these barriers would not be turned away solely because they pay in cash.

OSA represents students who attend Oregon’s public universities and community colleges. Students in our institutions continuously work to dismantle the discriminatory barriers they face every day. Therefore, I am asking for the State of Oregon to do their part in ensuring all our students an equitable and safe experience on their campus, workplace, and region. The Oregon Student Association is excited to work on this issue in the 2020 session and greatly appreciates the work Representative Bynum has done and continues to do for our college students.

Sincerely,

Emily Wanous

Legislative Director

Oregon Student Association



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