

To the Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means General Government Subcommittee:

Good afternoon everyone. My name is Jack Hanna and I am a resident of Portland Oregon. I present to you today my reasons and support for increased funding for the Oregon Advocacy Commission Office's Budget Request contained in SB 5501. Despite the significant and challenging budget constraints the State faces this year, I urge you to support increasing the staffing line item. Currently, the Office is staffed with just 2.5 people which I assert doesn't enable the Commission to appropriately and sufficiently perform the tasks and charge it is responsible for. I speak to this issue with both personal and professional experience.

For the last 2 years I have served as a Board member of "Building Bridges", which is an organization that is composed of community leaders and law enforcement officials from Washington, Clackamas and Multnomah counties. Since its creation 5 years ago, it has brought together the US Department of Justice officials, District Attorneys, Police Chiefs and Sheriffs to devise and construct new and better strategies for improving their efforts at providing public safety. It has been successful in that it's provided an opportunity for communication and discourse as to the failures and successes in that regard. But we need more coordinated support and outreach into the communities most affected by our criminal justice system. Who are those communities? The very ones that the four(4) Commissions represent, Blacks, Latinos, Asian Pacific Islanders, and Women. Our "Building Bridges" program needs real support and advocacy from the agencies of State government created to serve their needs. The OACO is that entity.

I also serve as a Board member of a non-profit corporation called the "New Portland Foundation" whose purpose is to promote new and effective strategies to effectively support new immigrants and refugees. We bring together government officials, religious institutions, funding entities both public and private with our new Americans. The purpose is to exchange, not impose, assess and devise what are the assets and deficiencies all of them have to improve the living circumstances of them and the community at large. OACO can undoubtedly serve and provide information, strategic resources and a public platform to support and promote our positive goal of "Integration by design" as opposed to "Integration by default " and the adverse consequences that result.

Lastly, I've served on Attorney General Rosenblum's "Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents Steering Committee" for the last 2 years. It's charge is the implementation of a data collection program of hate crimes and bias incidents throughout the State so that appropriate and effective policies and strategies be devised to protect the communities that are most at risk for such acts. Who are those communities? Exactly the one the the four(4) Commissions represents. Having them partner with the Steering Committee will only increase the effectiveness and profile of its task and its goal of fair, just and equal public safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to present to you today my views and opinions on this important decision of funding. I and many others community leaders believe this is an important agency that's not come near and close to fulfilling its potential to address systemic racism and all its manifestations.

Jack Hanna