



**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DATE: March 3, 2021

TO: Co-Chair Senator Jeff Golden  
Co-Chair Representative Greg Smith  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government

FROM: Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum

SUBJECT: SB 5501 – Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office

This testimony is presented in support of SB 5501.

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office (OACO) has long worked closely with the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) to help ensure equity in state policies and litigation. Most recently, OACO provided expert declarations that DOJ was able to incorporate into legal pleadings on behalf of the state related to specific federal executive orders the state opposed. OACO has provided crucial testimony on policies DOJ has pursued—from police profiling to protecting Oregon student data. Historically, OACO and DOJ have also worked together to identify policies to improve the lived experiences of Asian and Pacific Islander Oregonians, Black Oregonians, Hispanic Oregonians, and women Oregonians.

The work of OACO is undeniably important to identifying barriers to historically underserved communities across Oregon and providing equity-focused policy research to the three branches of Oregon state government. Critical to identifying barriers to historically underserved Oregonians and advocating for new policy approaches is community engagement and outreach, exactly the role that OACO has played.

By supporting OACO, the Legislature makes it clear to Oregonians that their government is committed to improving the lives of Asian and Pacific Islander Oregonians, Black Oregonians, Hispanic Oregonians, and women Oregonians.

Therefore, I—along with DOJ—support the passage of SB 5501 that will appropriate funds from the General Fund to provide additional staff funding for the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office.

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