

Joint Subcommittee on General Government

March 3, 2021

Dear Co-Chair Golden, Co-Chair Smith, and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today in support of providing additional funding to the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office. My name is Jo Won—and over the years—I have experienced prejudice and discrimination both personally and professionally. Oregon is home to a variety of vulnerable minority populations, the members of which are particularly vulnerable to prejudice and discrimination. The problem has become worse over time, and unless prompt action is taken, many people will be disenfranchised. Many minorities, especially Asian Americans, are largely unaware of the social and support services available to them in their community. As the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office is vital to the support and regulation of many Advocacy Commissions, it is imperative to support the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office to bring more awareness to support Oregon's minority population.

It is folly to expect meaningful and lasting change without adequately funding the instruments of such change. Supporting the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office benefits all Oregonians and every dollar funded is sure to pay rich dividends. With Covid-19 and the national protests, we need organizations like the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office now more than ever. Thank you for this opportunity to testify, community services that help the least among us, help us all.

Best Regards,

Jo Won, Esq