



3/23/21

Chair Smith Warner and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of ROSE Community Development, I urge you to support HB 2337. ROSE has been working in Southeast Portland for nearly three decades, building affordable housing and community development programs.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has made painfully clear, racism is a public health crisis in this country. HB 2337 declares racism a public health crisis in Oregon. Racism causes harm, trauma, illness, and death to Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) Oregonians. HB 2337 acknowledges that Oregon's very founding as a state was rooted in racist ideals, and the damaging impact of these and other racist policies continue to exist within our present-day policies and systems. Further, this bill signals the need for accelerated, intentional actions to heal these injustices and articulates six initial strategies and investments to address health inequities.

ROSE is working on the frontlines of this crisis through our housing and programs like our Baby Booster Initiative. Baby Booster works to reduce racial disparities in maternal, child and family health outcomes. ROSE is part of the national Best Babies Zone network and public health agencies in other states have acted to declare racism a public health crisis. I hope that Oregon will join them.

We believe that now is the time to move forward with HB 2337, which was developed by the Oregon Health Equity Task Force which is composed of leaders and community-based organizations representing BIPOC, Tribal, and Immigrant and Refugee communities and includes six initial strategies that are responsive to the specific needs of their communities to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities. Please vote to advance HB 2337.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Sauvie".

Nick Sauvie
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