



March 31, 2021

To: Chair Representative Rachel Prusak, Vice-Chairs Representative Cedric Hayden and Representative Andrea Salinas, and members of the House Committee on Health Care committee

From: Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA)

Re: Testimony in support of HB 3159

Greetings Chair Representative Rachel Prusak, Vice-Chairs Representative Cedric Hayden and Representative Andrea Salinas, and members of the House Committee on Health Care committee. We are writing to you on behalf of the Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA), one of six Regional Health Equity Coalitions (RHECs) across the state, representing Washington, Clackamas, and Multnomah counties, in support of HB 3159, the Data Justice Act

OHEA is a people-of-color-led collaborative that organizes to center and uplift the wisdom of communities of color through racial justice-informed health equity policies and practices. This is a part of the movement to dismantle white supremacy and shift the imbalance of power in our state.

As many of you know, OHEA has been advocating for better disaggregated data for years. In the many years since the earliest pieces of legislation around REAL-D were passed, we have learned so much about the continued challenges in collecting the most comprehensive data we can, in a way that supports the fidelity of the questions being asked. We have certainly learned that the systems for where and how data is collected and stored need to be created. We have also learned that there needs to be clear expectations from OHA and DHS that ensure they have implemented accountability measures to ensure data is being collected in alignment with the spirit of the policy passed.

We have seen the lead organizations and champions take steps to learn from past efforts, to include meaningful feedback from community partners and others who offered some very important considerations about the language of the bill to ensure that it meets its goals. I think everyone involved understands the importance of collecting SOGI data, in a trauma-informed and equitable way. OHEA is in support of the addition of collecting SOGI data, and ensuring communities that will be most impacted by the collection of these data are able to be part of offering thoughts/concerns and considerations to this bill so that we can build the capacity of community members to engage in policy, systems, and environment change work, and to ensure that we have advocates ready to hold agencies accountable during implementation.

We also understand the need for ongoing fiscal support of this effort given the need to create new data systems and to ensure alignment of current data collection efforts. As a member of the REAL-D Data and Governance Committee, I see the real-time implications of agencies asking for exceptions and exemptions, due to 'lack of funding to implement the data collection. While I don't think it lies entirely on advocates to identify revenue for the implementation and roll-out, I do know what happens when there are little to no monies allocated for these efforts, and, who

the burden falls on. As you can guess, the burden disproportionately falls on communities most impacted and the organizations who work with and in service of these communities.

Thank you for your time today.

Zeenia Junkeer, ND
Director, Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA)