

Hello, I am in support of HB 3159. It is critical to communities of color, gender non-binary, and disabled to collect correct and truthful data in regards to health services. In particular to the Native American/Alaska Native community, we are often mis-categorized as Asian, White, or Mexican. This skews the data and continues to uphold settler colonial systemization of racism and disregard to peoples ethnicity. Further, the categories are too generalized. As a case in point, I went recently to EPIC for a mammogram. On the tablet they provided to collect demographics, my options were American Indian, Aleut or Eskimo. I am Alaska Native specifically from the Tlingit/Haida tribe in SE Alaska. When I asked the desk person and the technician about it, the desk person had no idea and referred me to the technician. I was told by the technician that American Indian, Aleut and Eskimo have high cases of breast cancer. I said, but I'm neither of those ethnicities, so my data will go into one of those because I have no other choice, and it skew the data you are collecting about breast cancer in those communities. It does not make sense. I was told, they had no other information about who to speak to about it, and the conversation ended there.

With this particular situation in mind, how many other data sets are incorrect because of this wrong methodology? How will this incorrect process and data it collects adversely affect NA/AN communities? What are you are going to do to change this systemic injustice?

HB 3159 needs to be passed and systemic changes made. The time is now.

A letter will be forthcoming by email.
Thank you and Kind regards,
Renea Perry