

Kate Brown
Governor



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Testimony in Support of HB 2030
House Committee on Rules
February 23, 2021, 1 pm

Chair Democratic Leader Rep. Smith Warner, Vice Chair Republican Leader Rep. Drazen, Vice Chair Rep. Holvey, and Representatives Bonham, Fahey, Salinas, and Zika:

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions write in support of HB 2030. The Chairs request that the formal statutes of the Advocacy Commissions be changed to reflect the key role of equity in their policy advising and study of long standing issues within community and society. The current statutes use the word equality, but the more reflective term for the work is equity. It is important in that it acknowledges the historic and current systems of oppression that create uneven starting points for different people and communities. The Advocacy Commissions use an Equity Lens in all of their work, in an effort to provide tailored levels of support based on the specific needs of BIPOC and LGBTQ communities in order to achieve fairness in outcomes. It empowers and uplifts communities most impacted by systemic oppression and requires a redistribution of resources, power, and opportunity to communities; the Governor's budget this biennium being reflective of that community process and investment.

Additionally, the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office (OACO) is an independent agency and the OACO Executive Director should report directly to the Governor. At the time that the 2009 statutes were revised, the appointment was set with the BOLI Commissioner when BOLI was one of only two state agency heads to statutorily deal with civil rights and equity. Oregon has changed much in 10 years, and direct report to the Governor is in full alignment with her vision. It will also align with and support the Governor's Racial Justice Council in community engagement, resourcing, associated policy development, and advancing equity-focused initiatives in Oregon government in all of its branches.

These changes will help to clarify the role of the Commissions and the support that the OACO provides to the Commissions. It will increase the effectiveness of the agency and increases the positive outcomes of the work of the Commissioners. There are other changes in the statutory wording that better align the focus and reflect the constituent communities of the Commissions.

Sincerely,

Albert Lee, Executive Director

OR Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Hussein Al-Baiaty, Co-Chair
Mohamed Alyajouri, Co-Chair
Jessica Asai, Vice Chair
Legislative member:
Senator Michael Dembrow

OR Commission on Black Affairs

Lawanda J. Manning Chair
Mariotta Gary-Smith, Vice Chair
Legislative member:
Sen. James I. Manning Jr.

OR Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Irma Linda Castillo, Chair
Gustavo Morales, Vice Chair
Legislative member:
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OR Commission for Women

Kassandra Krifka, Chair
Dr. Maura Kelly, Vice Chair
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