

Submitter: Abby Levin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Health Care

Measure: HB4052

Oregon is a predominantly white state. However, this fact leads people to the conclusion that other racial or ethnic groups do not exist here. We are becoming more diverse and our medical practices need to reflect this. As a mental health clinician working as a public servant for the county government- I know first hand that our Latino and First Nation populations do not benefit from the mental health programs offered here. There are accessibility, language, and cultural barriers that can be broken down and it is our responsibility to do so. It's not the responsibility of small Latinx organizations or reservation councils with little funding to do the work the county's budget covers for everyone else. We have a workforce that is ready to serve, we just need to reach the rest of the community that is otherwise forgotten. Thank you for your time and consideration in this testimony.