

Submitter: Teresa Roark

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Health Care

Measure: HB4052

Date 2/2/22

Chair Prusak, Vice Chairs Hayden and Salinas, and Members of the Committee, I am testifying in support of HB 4052 declaring racism a public health issue and funding strategies to support more equitable communities in Oregon. There are many reasons that I think this is an important issue in Oregon. But the thing that moved me to take action on this issue was hearing from community members who are black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) how they felt when the Oregon Legislature declared racism a public health issue, but did not provide funding. Making a public declaration, but not providing actual support felt like a slap in the face and an abandonment. The funding for the proposal requested has been developed in collaboration with communities of color and a broad group of stakeholders. It's important that we as Oregonians both recognize publicly the impact racism continues to have on community members and take meaningful action to make change such as funding HB 4052.

Sincerely,

Teresa
Teresa Roark
Springfield, Oregon