



February 2, 2022

The Honorable Rachel Prusak  
Chair, House Committee on Health Care  
State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: House Bill 4052 – racism as a public health crisis

Dear Chair Prusak and members of the committee:

Providence recognizes that long-standing inequities and systemic injustices have led to health disparities in communities across Oregon. We are proud to voice our support for House Bill 4052, legislation that begins to identify and correct systems and structures that perpetuate inequity and lead to health disparities.

Our support for House Bill 4052 is based on evidence that racism leads to measurable and detrimental outcomes in an individual's health and well-being. Providence supports three components of this legislation that promotes equitable access to services and moves this work forward in a tangible way.

- Culturally and linguistically specific mobile health units: An important element of ensuring consistent, equitable access to health care is providing care where patients can receive services. The pilot mobile health program will increase access to care and serve as a model for expansion.
- Direct leadership and engagement from communities: To end inequities in health care, we must listen with curiosity and appropriate solidarity. Providence is committed to joining with local leaders, community members and other healthcare institutions to direct the change we need.
- Funding for culturally specific programs: Elevating the voices of individuals with lived experience to make funding recommendations is critical to our success. Programs prioritized by community and need to prevent and improve health conditions will be most successful.

Providence is committed to living our Mission and values to remove causes of oppression and knows that as a state we can do better. Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for House Bill 4052.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Herrington".

Anthony Herrington  
Regional chief DEI officer  
Providence Health & Services

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Harker".

James Harker  
Chief executive population health  
Providence Health & Services