

February 2, 2022

More than 200 Health Professionals and Public Health Advocates Say: Support Legislation to Address Racism as a Public Health Crisis Bill, HB 4052

To the Oregon Legislature:

We, the undersigned health professionals and public health advocates, urge you to support HB 4052 which would address racism as a public health crisis and take evidence-based steps to improve health outcomes for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in our state. Following the passage of House Resolution (HR) 6 in 2021, which declared racism as a public health crisis in Oregon, we must now take action through passage of HB 4052 to begin to address both the immediate need to reduce racial and ethnic health inequities, as well as creating a pathway for future strategies to address structural racism in the future.

Through our own experiences in clinical settings and in our communities, we recognize an urgent need to follow the community-led efforts of BIPOC advocates to address the harms that racism has caused to the health of Oregonians. We urge Oregon legislators to adopt HB 4052 to begin to address the health disparities engendered by the long history of systemic racism in our state. We support the following strategies outlined in the bill:

- Remove barriers to increase access and quality of care in BIPOC communities. Histories of discrimination have negatively influenced the health outcomes of BIPOC individuals and their likelihood to seek out healthcare.^{1,2} Through a pilot mobile health program, Oregon will be able to increase the accessibility of healthcare for underserved communities. Current research shows the efficacy of mobile health units, highlighting their successful and cost-effective model for improving health outcomes in BIPOC communities.^{3,4}
- Meaningfully invest in community engagement to identify future strategies. As health professionals and public health advocates, we acknowledge that the lived experiences of racism can cause adverse mental and physical health outcomes.⁵ The knowledge of BIPOC communities is essential to generate health equity strategies that prioritize these communities' needs.
- Develop recommendations to fund culturally specific programs. Establish a funding strategy to support intervention programs designed to prevent health conditions that result in inequitable outcomes for BIPOC communities.

HB 4052 is a vital step toward correcting grave health inequities due to the corrosive effects of racism. We urge you to support its passage.

References

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2. Gonzales, K. L., Noonan, C., Goins, R. T., Henderson, W. G., Beals, J., Manson, S. M., Acton, K. J., & Roubideaux, Y. (2016). Assessing the Everyday Discrimination Scale among American Indians and Alaska Natives. *Psychological assessment*, 28(1), 51–58. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0039337>
3. Attipoe-Dorcoo, S., Delgado, R., Gupta, A., Bennet, J., Oriol, N. E., & Jain, S. H. (2020). Mobile Health Clinic Model in the Covid-19 Pandemic: Lessons Learned and Opportunities for Policy Changes and Innovation. *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 19(1), 73. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-020-01175-7>
4. Yu, S., Hill, C., Ricks, M. L., Bennet, J., & Oriol, N. E. (2017). The Scope and Impact of Mobile Health Clinics in the United States: A Literature Review. *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 16(1), 178. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-017-0671-2>
5. Williams, D. R., Lawrence, J. A., & Davis, B. A. (2019). Racism and Health: Evidence and Needed Research. *Annual review of public health*, 40, 105–125. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-publhealth-040218-043750>

Signers on behalf of an organization

Christel Allen Pro-Choice Oregon

Kelly Campbell Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

Malcolm Chaddock Portland Individuals For Justice

Amy Fellows MPH Eugene We Can Do Better

Kelly Gonzales PhD West Linn Indigenous Equity Institute

Marilyn Keller Portland Lift Every Voice Oregon I am one of the Chief Petitioners for IP 17 & 18- two future Ballot Measures to mitigate gun violence in Oregon.

West Livaudais MPH Portland Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection

Sarah Lochner PORTLAND Coalition of Local Health Officials

Emily Little PhD CLCE Nurturely

Mike Marshall Portland Oregon Recovers Thank you!

Dele Oyemaja Portland Project Access NOW (PANOW) I sign on to LC 238 on behalf of Project Access NOW as a measure of support with other like-minded CBOs who share our values. LC 238 is important to our organization for all the reasons noted in the letter sent to the Oregon Legislature.

Jamie Pang Oregon Environmental Council

Sandy Ramirez Licensed Clinical Psychologist Portland Havurah Shalom

David Saez Centro Latino Americano

Doriandra Smith Whiteaker Community Council

Laura Torgerson Naturopathic Physician Portland Everyday Wellness Clinic It is time.

Betsy Zucker M.S.N. Portland Doctors for Camp Closure Oregon Chapter

Individual Signers

Susan Abrams West Linn

Omar Al Rais

Anthony Albert Corvallis

Pamela Allee MLT (retired) Portland

Peter Auerbach MD

Catherine Bax Physician Assistant Portland

Collina Beard Eugene

Richard Bee "RN MS" Ashland

Mike Beilstein Corvallis

Peter Bergel Salem

Christine BERNARD Portland

Sharon Black RN - retired Hillsboro This is vital work to make Oregon a better place for all to live.

Dana Bleckinger Yachats

Melantha Bobrick Bend

Sarah Borsten Portland

Robert Brown Portland

Jeni Canaday Eugene

Twila Cain-Pierce "RN MPH" Portland

Cynthia Cannon Poindexter Ph.D. Eugene

Lynn Cardiff Salem

Nancy Carl Carlton

Jennifer Carley Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Salem Racism is a serious stressor whether explicit or implicit and needs to be formally recognized and addressed

Elona Casady MPH Portland

Jonathan Chenjeri Klamath Falls

Lynda Chick RN Clearly the historical health inequities that have resulted from systemic racism are long overdue for restorative action

Ann Clark PhD Portland

Buck Clarke Beaverton

Ann Clarkson PhD Psychology Portland Unfortunately racism is found throughout our society.

Richard Clinton Corvallis

Sue Colasurdo MD Eugene

Alison Cole

Anaeliz Colon MPH Portland

Tacey Conover Eugene

Scott Crockett Florence

Elizabeth Darby Retired Health Policy Analyst Portland Our health system is such that BIPOC communities live shorter lives than white communities based on a variety of issues within the U.S. health delivery system.

Frances Davis Crooked River Ranch

Georgia Davis Hillsboro

Kim Davis LCSW Salem

David De La Torre

Sandra Decker Portland

D. F. Deloff

martin donohoe md

Bob Doppelt MS Counseling Psychology Eugene
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Michael Duey MD
Lynn Edwards MD Portland
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Marlene Eid Instructor of psychology Tigard
Karen Erde MD Portland
Megan Esler PORTLAND
Shana Falb Bend
Virginia Feldman MD portland
Karen Fletcher Portland
Heather Franklin MPH
Josh Fulgham Portland
Charles Gallia PhD Oregon City
Martha Gies
John Gillette M.D.Physician Portland seems to be a valuable first step in dealing with
chronic inequity
Renee Goin LCSW
Marshall Goldberg MD MPH (Epidemiology)
Bruce Goldberg MD
Meghan Goldman
Kathryn Gordon Former speech pathologist Portland
Sher Griffin CADC in training Portland
Joshua Griggs MSW
Teri Gutierrez Eugene
Kate Hails clinical psychology PhD Portland
Margaret Halloran retired RN MCMINNVILLE
Andy Harris MD Portland
Randy Harrison

Ashley Hart MD Portland

Stephanie Harvey Public Health Educator in Deschutes County

Chisao Hata Portland This is necessary and thank you for your support on this VERY important bill.

Susan Haywood Portland

Susan Heath

Samantha Hernandez Portland

William S. Herz MD Bend

Ann Hollyfield Waldport

Paul Homan Ashland

Rose-Ellen Hope Retired SILVERTON Long overdue changes in structural racism necessitated.

Mike Horner RTPO

Jose Antonio Huerta Community Organizer Springfield

Barbara Ibrahim BSN RN IBCLC Metolius I am a mother to two Black women and wife to a Black husband. Our family has experienced racism in Oregon and it has negatively affected both physical and mental health. I am particularly concerned with the lack of representation in rural areas of Oregon where some BIPOC communities are left out of planning and offering of resources due to low numbers of particular groups in the region and attitudes that racism doesn't exist here. State level actions are necessary to assure that all Oregonians are given equal access to appropriate health care without bias.

Robina Ingram-Rich BSN MS MPH Lake Oswego

Christina Irwin DMD Lake Oswego Racism is harmful to all and to the health of all those who are stigmatized. Racism also leads to health problems when those who are stigmatized develop diseases due to inadequate healthcare and their communities may act as contagious disease reservoirs which can lead to the reinfection of the larger racist communities.

Rich Iwasaki Beaverton

Diane Jacobs Portland

Gwen Jaspers Eugene Thank you to the group who put this petition together and for bringing this important issue to the public's attention.

Candice Jimenez MPH Portland

Shanaè Joyce-Stringer Eugene

Diane Keefauver Attorney Portland

Margaret Keene Madras

dorinda kelley portland

Lucy Kennedy-Wong

Janice Kettler LCSW

Laurie King Portland I totally agree!! Thank you!!

Donna Kurtz

Jackie Lamars Portland

Gary LaVenture Talent

Abby Levin LPC Bend

Beth Levin

Rebecca Luening Portland

Lacey Londborg CMA Bend We must do more to help our Black Indigenous people and people of color! The time for change is now!

Jill Mackie Corvallis

connie masuoka DMD FACD Portland

marianne mauldin retired Physical Therapist Assistant Portland

Katherine McGuiness "MPH MSW"

Anne McLaughlin Portland

Emily Meagher QMHA Bend

Linda Meier MD It is important to call this out in this way and begin to change the systemic racism that exists in Oregon.

Thomas Meinzen Eugene

Jeffrey Menashe MD Portland

Tricia Merrick Springfield

Regna Merritt PA - retired Portland

Heather Millehrer-Huerta Springfield

Mark Molina Springfield

Gregory Monahan Portland Racism is the root cause for many of our current problems including climate change economic inequality and our broken democracy. Edith
Montgomery OTR retired Ashland
Carole Most
Damon Motz-Storey Portland
Patricia Murphy ND (ret) LAc
Travis Nelson RN BSN BC Portland
John Nettleton Portland
Carol Newman Astoria If not now when?
Edna Nyamu
Maureen O'Neal NA Tigard
mary Lynn OBRIEN MD Lake Oswego
Tara Ohta Portland
Devlynne Ondusko MD Portland
Christina Pasillas Klamath Falls
Julie Plagenhoef RN Portland
Jenny Pompilio MD MPH Portland
Cindy Quale Physician Assistant
Pia Quimson-Guevarra D.O. Beaverton
Wendy Rankin Public Health MPA Portland The title says it all.
Bonnie Reagan MD Portland
Dawn Regier
Diana Rempe PhD Community Psychologist Portland
Diana Richardson LMT Portland Just do it!
Eric Richardson Eugene
Thomas Riddering None
Raine Lee Ritalto
William Rizer
TERESA ROBERTS PORTLAND submitting as a constituent of Tina Kotek
Brent Rocks Portland Can't we all just get along (Rodney King)
Ned Rosch yoga teacher Portland

Dave Ruud MD Portland

Janice Sakofsky

Linda Schmoldt Portland

Amy Scholze CHW The Dalles

Lindsay Seibel MPH

Daniel Shea Portland This would be an important Legislation in the right direction for the future of Oregon Healthcare Justice for everyone for an Injustice to one is an Injustice to all of us. May it also become a model for the Nation.

Ian Shelley Portland

Elizabeth Sheppard Retired Health care administrator Portland Our whole healthcare non-system is a crisis.

Dean Sigler Aloha

Tom Sincic MSN FNP-Retired Portland

Marie Soller MD BEAVERTON

Kristine Sonnleitner MSW/QMHP PDX

Susan Stedman Medford

Renee Stringham MD Portland

Meredith Strunk QMHA Bend

Caroline Suiter MPH

Alejandra Talavera Bend

Sean Tenney Portland

Lauren Thompson

Harvey Thorstad Portland

Susan Toedter Bend

Theodora Tsongas PhD MS

Dena Turner Portland

Francisca Trujillo-Dalbey Newport This is important legislation and I urge everyone to honor our BIPOC community by voting yes.

John Tyler Ashland

Emily Vala-Haynes Associate Professor of Public Health PhD MPH Monmouth

alice van leunen McMinnville

Pamela Vasquez Salem

Marie Wakefield Newport

DeEtte Waleed Gresham My BIPOC friends know from personal experience how necessary it is to reform our health-care system.

Megan Weaver MSW CSWA CADC I Redmond

Randall Webb Portland

Jessica Weber CCMA CMPE Grants Pass

Janet Weil Portland The health impacts of environmental racism must be addressed. No more deaths in the field or orchard or nursery from exposed farmworkers! (Many other issues of course.)

Karen Wells Portland Racism HURTS EVERYONE IN ALL OUR COMMUNITIES. Racism harms children AND adults. It crosses all social and economic lines. Racism is BUILT to Oppress and harm. Racism and the continued support of racist structures is the most harmful of Public Health problems because it is a social perception harm not based on anything real or rational.

Karen Weliky Dentist DMD Oregon City

Evelyn Whitlock MD MPH Portland

Diane Whitney M.D.

Cam Wolff Milwaukie

Debrah Wong Family Nurse Practitioner-BC MSN West Linn

Angela Zallen MD Eugene

Susan Bliven Marriage & Family Councilor Eugene

Lee Bliven II Eugene

Tom Hastings none Portland

Susan Schroeder MPH worked in research & development of behavior change interventions for 15 years. I volunteer with the Eugene-Springfield NAACP. We have worked with Leslie Gregory on a webinar training series for health care providers to raise awareness of racism within the health care system and strategies for reducing interpersonal and systemic racism. When we declare racism as a public health issue then we must also enact strategies to address the health disparities caused by racism -- and fund these strategies. Thank you for bringing this back to the Oregon Legislature.

Lou Sinniger Elmira Oregon

Benjamin Vazquez MD Eugene

Renee Yandel Springfield

Maija Yasui Prevention Specialist Hood River

Emily York MPH