

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



Testimony in Support of SB 1569

February 7, 2022

Chair Beyer, Vice-Chair Boquist, and members of the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee,

For the record, my name is Courtney Neron, State Representative for House District 26. I offer my support for HB1569 with the -1 amendment.

As a lawmaker, I want to approach this work with an understanding of how our policies impact our communities and aim to create the most fairness possible in our tax structures. Unfortunately, as a state and a nation, we lack information relative to how our tax collection and tax credits are distributed between different racial and ethnic groups across Oregon. Having detailed and aggregated information about how specific tax provisions impact and even perpetuate racial disparities can, inform responsive legislation.

SB 1569 adds an optional form to Oregon's personal income taxes asking for people to select their three primary racial and ethnic identifiers from a list of 38. This list mirrors the REAL-D (Race, Ethnicity, Language, and Disability) options developed by the Oregon Health Authority in partnership with Community Based Organizations. Taxpayers may choose not to answer if they are uncomfortable with sharing this information.

When we collect detailed information, we can identify specific needs, inequities, trends, gaps and otherwise untold information. The data generated by SB 1569 will be used for statistical analysis and **aggregated** data has the potential to help Oregon lead the nation in gaining a deeper, data-informed understanding of the realities of our tax system. With that deeper understanding comes the ability to more effectively address systemic inequities and improve economic justice and fairness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of SB 1569 with the -1 amendment, I urge your support in passage of the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

State Representative Courtney Neron