

Hello Chair and Legislative Colleagues,

For the record, my name is Kali Thorne Ladd and I'm here as part of the Reimagine Oregon project to testify on the Impact statement bill- HB4107.

The state legislature has for some time used impact statements, such as fiscal impact statements to predict the cost or savings of any proposed law. This bill is suggesting that we predict the cost of a proposed law on a fellow Oregonian's humanity.

Looking at how a bill might harm or help underrepresented groups is a critical layer that can help ensure we do a better job serving all Oregonians and analyzing the unintended consequences of bills designed to help and not hurt others.

Disparities are real. Not imagined. The data bears this out over and over again. As legislators, you have an opportunity to to create laws that help Oregonians and not exacerbate inequities that are misaligned with our core values as a state.

I believe that all legislators serve Oregon because they care about their communities. They care about their constituents. They care about the greater good. This bill advances the greater good. It takes a step that ensures good for all is a standard bearer to how law making works.

And let me add that this is not new- Maine, Maryland and Virginia approved the use of such statements in 2021 and about a dozen other states have similar legislation pending. Iowa has been using racial impact statements to assess criminal justice bills for over a decade.

The inequities that we see in our society and in our state, is something that eats at our soul. It devours our moral compass and stymies the ability to do good, honor the humanity of others and have communities that thrive.

Ubuntu is a concept that says, I am who I am because of who we all are. It's this idea that my humanity is tied up in yours. My success is tied up in yours.

This impact bill is a step towards ubuntu. A step towards reminding all law makers of our interconnection, and that race does impact the realities of

many in this state. We all know the shameful history of Oregon and how racial bias was used to justify who owned land and who didn't; who was citizen and who went to internment camps; who could be out past dark and who couldn't; who could be seen as fully human.

This is a step in the direction of changing that for good.