

Hello and Namaste Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, and members of the House Committee on Rules,

My name is Hiral Pandya. On behalf of the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA) on which I serve, we enthusiastically urge the Committee to support the passage of HCR 11, which recognizes and honors Oregon's Indian community and extends congratulations and support for ongoing celebrations of India's independence.

Like many Oregonians, I immigrated from India in the hopes of a better future for me and my family. For more than 11 years, my wife, two sons, and I have called the City of Beaverton our home. And for more than 11 years, this state has embraced us with open arms.

I am thankful to be working as an engineer for one of Oregon's largest economic contributors, with over \$10.3 billion in direct GDP and \$19.4 billion in indirect GDP (2019): Intel.

Words cannot express my gratitude to this country, and to the state of Oregon, for giving us the chance to pursue a better life and to have provided opportunities for growth – not only economically but to also become a better human being through civic engagement.

It is now my turn to give back to the community that provided so much to me. Thus, I have been involved in several community and culturally based activities and organizations to do just that.

I have the honor of serving as a member of the Beaverton city council's Diversity Advisory Board (DAB) since January, 2021. DAB exists to advise the City on diversity, equity, and inclusion strategies that strengthen relationships among communities of color, immigrants, and refugees, and with city government.

My public service work also includes involvement with an AAPI group through the Cooper Mountain Elementary School, creating a physical environment for racial, cultural, spiritual, and language-diverse communities through WakeUp Beaverton!, coordinating the Hindu-American community to practice, preserve, and advance ideals and values of Hindu Dharma through Hindu Swayam-Sevak Sangh (HSS), and addressing food insecurity through a food donation project called SEWA Diwali.

In June, 2022, I was appointed by former Governor Kate Brown to the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs. OCAPIA works for the implementation and establishment of economic, social, legal, and political equity for Asian and Pacific Islanders in the state of Oregon and assesses issues and needs

confronting Asian and Pacific Islanders in this state. OCAPIA has several statutory duties, all of which revolve around advocacy and equity and opportunities for Asian and Pacific Islanders across the state.

OCAPIA is thrilled that the legislature is recognizing the Indian community in Oregon and celebrating the 76th anniversary of India's independence. We hope this recognition will bring Oregonians across silos, to celebrate the rich diversity of the state, Indian individuals and communities' contributions to the state's culture and every sector, from education, medicine, technology, dance, food, and the arts and recognize that we are stronger together. OCAPIA hopes that every representative on the House Committee on Rules will join us in supporting this recognition of and Honoring the Indian community.


Thank you,

*H K Pandya*

Commissioner Hiral Pandya



<https://www.oregonadvocacy.org/> 

503.302.9725 

[oaco.mail@oregon.gov](mailto:oaco.mail@oregon.gov) 

PO Box 17550, Portland, OR 97217 