



## Advocating for Equity and Diversity throughout Oregon

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

It is with gratitude that we collectively submit this testimony on behalf of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions (OACs) – the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific and Islander Affairs (OCAPIA), Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA), Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA), and the Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW) – to eagerly urge the Committee to support the passage of HB 2925.

Each Commission works to implement and establish social, political, economic, and legal equity for its constituent populations in the state of Oregon. Each Commission has several statutory duties, all of which revolve around advocacy and equity. The four Commissions write in joint support of House Bill 2925, which provides a technical fix to HB 4052 from the 2022 Legislative Session. It allows the affinity group task forces like the Health Equity Advisory Leaders (HEAL) committee to continue meeting to generate policy recommendations that address racism and colonialism as a public health crisis.

House Bill 4052 (2022) gave the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office (OACO) until June of 2023 to convene affinity group task forces to research the needs of the communities they represent and develop recommendations for specific allocations of resources to address the communities' needs and health inequities.

The current task force includes 29 community members who are diverse in race, ethnicity, gender, language spoken, and geographical location.

Members identify as Black, Indigenous, Latine, AfroLatinx, Pacific Islander, Asian and Mixed Race. There are members from Central Oregon, the Portland metro area, the Willamette Valley, and Southern Oregon. Some members also identify as immigrants, persons with disabilities, LGBTQIA2S+, or as having a low income.

The HEAL committee has signaled the need for more time to research the inequities our communities are facing. We ask you to support the committee's request and pass HB 2925 to extend the deadline and allow the task force more time to compile its reports. The Commissions understand the challenges in developing affinity groups. It takes time to establish trust within marginalized communities whose voices have historically been pushed to society's peripheries.

### Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Jacqueline Leung, Co-Chair  
Sang Tzun Phan, Co-Chair  
John Iglesias, Vice Chair  
Legislative Members:  
Senator Michael Dembrow

### Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

Jessica Price, Chair  
Silky Booker, Vice-Chair  
Legislative Member:  
Senator James I. Manning, Jr.  
Representative Travis Nelson

### Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Melina Moran, Chair  
Josefina Riggs, Vice Chair

### Oregon Commission for Women

Natasha Haunsperger, Co-Chair  
Dr. Krista Parent, Co-Chair  
Camille Mercier, Vice-Chair  
Legislative Members:  
Senator Deb Patterson  
Representative Sheri Schouten



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The task force's challenges to breaking down system barriers are daunting, and the State should understand its weight for what they are. If we as a State fail to provide more time to the task force to gather data, appropriately conduct their reports, and effectively analyze the gaps our marginalized communities face, then the State will continue to fail every community represented by our four Commissions and more.

We stand in solidarity and urge this committee to support the passage of HB 2925.

Sincerely,

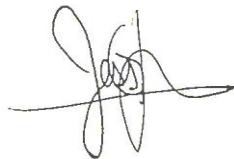
Oregon Advocacy Commissions



Melina Moran  
OCHA, Chair



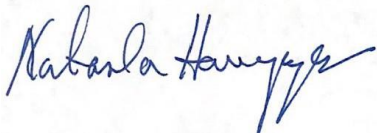
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OCAPIA, Co-Chair



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Krista Parent  
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