

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

For the record, my name is Hiral Pandya, I am a Commissioner on the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA).

OCAPIA works for the implementation and establishment of economic, social, legal, and political equity for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in the state of Oregon and to maintain a continuing assessment of issues and needs confronting Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in this state. OCAPIA has several statutory duties, all of which revolve around advocacy and equity.

I enthusiastically urge the Committee to support the passage of HB 3313, which will assign one paid intern position to the Oregon Advocacy

Commissions Office and each of the four Oregon Advocacy Commissions. The Oregon Advocacy Commission provides administrative support to four commissions: the Oregon Commission on Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA), Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA), Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA), and Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW)

All four commissions under OACO have volunteers from their specific marginalized communities who serve as commissioners to advocate on their behalf. However, OACO's staff play a key role by helping commissioners with different aspects of the process, like research, community outreach, leadership training, and more. Having a dedicated staff member to each of the commissions could improve each commission's research capabilities, advocacy reach, and overall functions.

**Oregon Commission on
Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs**

Chairs:

Jacqueline Leung
Sang Tzun "Sam" Phan

Vice-Chair:

John Iglesias

Commissioners:

Marilyn McClellan
Hiral Pandya

Legislative Members:

Senator Michael Dembrow

Oregon Advocacy Commissions

Office Staff

Albert Lee, Executive Director
Iyesha Rosser, Policy & Research
Saba Saleem, Public Affairs
Ava Stevens, Executive Support
Gustavo Guerrero, Legislative Lead

It would be really helpful to have addition to the team who will be fully dedicated to actualizing the four Commission's missions of establishing social, political, economic, and legal equity of their respective marginalized populations across the State of Oregon.

I strongly urge the Committee to support House Bill 3313.

Thank you,


H K Pandya


Hiral Pandya

Commissioner, Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs



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

503.302.9725 

oaco.mail@oregon.gov 

PO Box 17550, Portland, OR 97217 