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March 22, 2023

Dear Co-Chairs Campos and Valderrama, and Members of the Joint Subcommittee on Human Services:

For the record, my name is Jackie Leung. I am the Executive Director of the Micronesian Islander Community (MIC). I am writing a letter in support of SB 5525, which will provide additional funding for the Public Health Modernization program.

The Micronesian Islander Community (MIC) mission is to organize social justice programs, preserve our cultures, and enhance leadership through unifying our diverse communities. Our organization serves Micronesians throughout the entire state of Oregon, and include Micronesians from the Compact of Free Association (COFA) citizens including the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Kiribati and other Pacific Islanders who live in Oregon.

The MIC provides support on three core areas of equity: health access, food justice, and housing justice are our three main portfolios. We provide workshops and health services centered on addressing health concerns, from COVID-19 outreach and providing vaccines and tobacco prevention, to chronic diseases such as diabetes prevention programs, TB programs, and improving the health needs of our community. We organize monthly food access events, to bring food boxes and donated food items to the community. In addition, we provide housing assistance and rights workshops, to ensure our community are aware of their rights as a renter or a homeowner.

In the past year alone, we have provided support to over 1,500 households, and we recognize that this is a small chunk of Micronesians and Pacific Islanders who actually live in Oregon. In order to continue this work, MIC requests an investment for the OHA Public Health Modernization Budget. This funding includes nearly \$100 million for community based organizations such as MIC, who have supported Oregon's community since before the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted our Micronesian families and we are still treading the waters to ensure the health and well-being of our communities.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,  
DocuSigned by:

*Jackie Leung*  
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Jackie Leung, Executive Director