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Pastor Mark Jackson, Pastor  
Nicole Holden, Church Administrator  
Jorgetta Harris, Church Secretary

March 23, 2023

Members of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services

It is with tremendous enthusiasm that I give my support of SB5525. As a member of the Coalition of African & African American Pastors/Imams, our church expresses gratitude that current service level funding and some additional funding was included in the Governor's proposed budget. It's important to note that additional funding would allow our church and Coalition to do more and/or reach more people.

It is our recommendation for investment of \$286M above current service level for OHA Public Health Modernization Budget, which includes \$100M for CBOs who are a lifeline to Oregon's most diverse and marginalized populations across the state.

Oasis of Praise was instrumental in partnering with the Governor's staff and the Oregon Health Authority to implement a culturally specific outreach plan to serve the African and African American community in response to COVID-19.

Our church was the first community-based organization in the State of Oregon to administer a community-led COVID-19 testing event that led to our church working hand in hand with the Oregon Health Authority to ensure communities of color were prioritized for COVID-19 resources.

For example, when the people of color had vaccine hesitancy and lacked confidence in the health system and large vaccine clinics, our church and many other houses of worship partnered with the Oregon Health Authority to implement vaccine clinics at houses of worship that saved countless lives in the African and African American Community.

The COVID-19 pandemic has elevate the need and value of government and community partnerships to equip community based organizations, including faith-based organizations with the resources to serve community members who historically looks to houses of worship as a beacon of hope and trusted spaces for services.

I urge you to support SB5525.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark Jackson