



April 27, 2023

To: Chair Kate Lieber, Vice-chair Tim Knopp and the members of Senate Committee on Rules

From: Coua Xiong, Cultural Strategy Director, APANO
RE: Support SJR 33

Members of the Committee,

My name is Coua Xiong, Cultural Strategy Director at APANO. I am writing to express **support for Senate Joint Resolution 33.**

APANO unites Asian and Pacific Islanders to build power, develop leaders, and advance equity through organizing, advocacy, cultural work, and community development. We are committed to building a just world where communities have the power, resources, and voice to determine our own futures. This requires all communities to have access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care as a basic human right.

Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and all communities of color live at the intersection of a series of disparities, exclusion, and intentional structural barriers resulting in widespread marginalization. That shows up as disproportionate rates of poverty; housing instability; discrimination based on race, gender, and sexuality; and cultural and linguistic isolation, to name a few. To ensure that all Oregonians—regardless of income, citizenship status, race, gender, and sexual orientation—have access to health insurance coverage for reproductive health services, APANO supported the Reproductive Health Equity Act in 2017. But our work is not done.

Our fundamental freedoms are at stake, both here in Oregon and across the country. We've seen an ever-growing number of attacks on our right to essential healthcare and to marry who we love. Elected leaders have a responsibility to protect all Oregonians. You must pass SJR 33 to enshrine our core values in the Oregon constitution and ensure we can make deeply personal decisions free from government interference, including whether or not we have an abortion, use contraception, or marry someone of the same gender.

I urge you to pass SJR 33. Thank you for your time and commitment to protecting our rights.



Sincerely,
Coua Xiong
Cultural Strategy Director
APANO