



Date: May 4, 2023
To: Joint Ways and Means Committee
From: Oregon Health Equity Alliance
RE: Senate Bill 5506

Co-Chairs Tawna Sanchez and Steiner, Co-Vice Chairs Girod, Gomber, and Smith,

On behalf of the Oregon Health Equity Alliance, we are writing to ask for your support in general funding Senate Bill 5506 for OHEA's top priorities in this 2023 Legislative Session.

Who we are

The Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA) is a people of color-led collaborative, organized to center and uplift the wisdom of our communities of color through racial justice informed health equity policies and practices as part of the movement to dismantle white supremacy and shift the imbalance of power. OHEA serves Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties as one of ten regional health equity coalitions across Oregon.

Our ask

OHEA's Policy Committee has identified the following bills as priorities for the 2023 Legislative Session. With this in mind we would like for you to consider funding the following bills that will directly impact our communities:

- **[SB 520](#) - Early Compassionate Medical Release**
 - Provides early compassionate medical release for adults in prison or state custody imprisonment, due to serious or terminal medical conditions.
- **[SB 564](#) - Regional Health Equity Coalition (RHEC)**
 - Allocates the Oregon Health Authority funding to expand funding for already existing Regional Health Equity Coalitions and funding for 5 additional RHEC's.
- **[SB 776](#) - Reparations Taskforce for African Americans**
 - Establishes Task Force on Reparations and directs taskforce to study and develop proposals for financial and non-financial reparations for Oregonians of African American descent.
- **[HB 2918](#) - Continuation of Mobile Health Units**
 - Continuation of resources to support implementation of mobile health unit pilot program.
- **[HB 2925](#) - Continuation of Advisory Boards**
 - Affinity group advisory group convening extension.
- **[HB 2538](#) - Medical Interpretation Services**
 - Requires health insurance to provide medical interpreter services.

The Joint Ways and Means Committee has an opportunity to fund these bills in order to address disparities and better support our communities across Oregon. Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

Oregon Health Equity Alliance