

Submitter: Alisa Looney

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

Dear Oregon Legislators

In 2022, the Legislature passed HB 4052 which declared racism a public health crisis. According to the Oregon Public Health Association, “Racism causes harm, trauma, illness, and death to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Oregonians. While HR 6, which Declared Racism a Public Health Crisis, passed during the 2021 legislative session we must take strategic actions to support this declaration. LC 238, like HR 6, acknowledges that Oregon’s very founding as a state was rooted in racist ideals, and while the Black exclusionary laws are no longer on the books, the damaging impact of these and other racist policies continue to exist within our present-day policies and systems perpetuating health disparities. LC 238 calls for accelerated, intentional actions to heal these injustices and articulates strategies and investments to address health inequities.”

HB 2995 directly addresses the strategies outlined in HB 4052, which are 1) Remove barriers to increase access and quality of care in BIPOC communities. 2) Meaningfully invest in community engagement to identify future strategies and 3) Develop recommendations to fund culturally specific programs.

I urge legislators to vote in support of HB 2995 so Oregon can take a necessary step towards repair and restoration for Black Oregonians. Your consideration is much appreciated.

Thank you
Alisa Looney