

March 21, 2025
RE: Support Bill HB 3595

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Drazan, Vice-Chair Pham, and members of the House Rules Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Hip Sing Association in support of Bill HN 3595.

Advocating for Lunar New Year Recognition in Oregon

This year represents a significant opportunity in the push to recognize Lunar New Year as an official state holiday in Oregon. While neighboring states like California and Washington have already made this important move, CFAP is collaborating with State Representative Dr. Tran to introduce similar legislation and gain broad support for this cause.

Why It's Important to Recognize Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year is a time of great cultural importance for many communities in Oregon, especially for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) residents. Officially recognizing it as a state holiday would honor the cultural traditions of hundreds of thousands of Oregonians, promote inclusivity, and generate both economic and social benefits for the state.

Cultural Significance of Lunar New Year

Asian communities have been vital to Oregon's history and growth for over 150 years. By establishing Lunar New Year as a state holiday, Oregon would acknowledge their enduring contributions, encourage a greater appreciation for cultural diversity, and strengthen the bonds within communities across the state.

Economic Impact of Lunar New Year Celebrations

Lunar New Year celebrations already play a significant role in Oregon's economy by driving consumer spending and boosting local business activity. Granting official recognition to the holiday would further enhance these economic impacts by encouraging even greater participation, supporting small businesses, and integrating the celebrations more fully into Oregon's economic fabric.

Conclusion

Recognizing Lunar New Year as an official state holiday in Oregon would be an important step toward acknowledging the traditions of the state's diverse populations. It would foster cultural appreciation, stimulate economic growth, and allow families to celebrate without facing obstacles. We strongly support HB 3595 and encourage its passage, as it would help build a more inclusive and equitable society for everyone.

Sincerely yours,

Jason Zhen
President
jasonzhen76@gmail.com
971-998-9893