

**Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
Testimony in Support of SB 1570
Universal Representation & Children's Stability Fund**

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

The Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA) respectfully submits testimony in **strong support of SB 1570** and urges its passage during this legislative session. OCBA's statutory role is to advise state leadership on policies that advance equity, health outcomes, and stability for Black Oregonians and other historically underserved communities. This bill aligns directly with those priorities.

Healthcare settings must remain safe, stable environments where patients, particularly children and families, can access to care without fear, disruption, or uncertainty. Across Oregon, gaps in protections within healthcare facilities contribute to delayed treatment, reduced trust in providers, and poorer long-term outcomes for communities already experiencing disparities. SB 1570 takes a necessary and responsible step by directing the Oregon Health Authority to conduct a comprehensive study of protections within healthcare settings and provide findings to the Legislature. This approach ensures future policymaking is grounded in data, transparency, and lived experience.

OCBA believes that proactive evaluation of healthcare protections is essential to advancing Oregon's public health goals. When patients feel safe accessing care, preventative services increase, emergency system strain decreases, and children experience greater continuity and stability. Studying these protections now allows lawmakers to identify policy gaps early and develop solutions that strengthen both patient outcomes and system accountability.

We urge the Legislature to advance SB 1570 as part of a broader commitment to equitable healthcare access and responsible governance. The Commission also encourages the Oregon Health Authority to center community voice, culturally responsive practices, and cross-sector collaboration throughout the study process. OCBA stands ready to support implementation efforts and continued dialogue to ensure that Oregon's healthcare systems remain accessible, stable, and grounded in dignity for all.

Thank you for your leadership. We respectfully urge your **yes vote** on SB 1570.

Respectfully submitted,

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

