

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

OCHA

2015–17 Report
to the Governor
and Legislature

SUMMARY



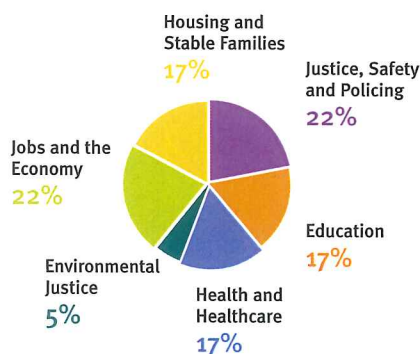
Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Advocacy

OCHA supported 18 bills with testimony or letters of support of which 88% passed.

Of those that did not pass, the OCHA continues to champion the underlying issues, supporting future bills on those subjects.

OCHA Testimony by Strategic Area 2015-16 Sessions



The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA) gives underrepresented populations within Hispanic and Latino communities statewide a voice in policymaking. We maintain an independent voice within state government, collaborating with the Governor, legislators and community partners on key equity issues and lifting lesser known but important policy areas into prominence with our advocacy.

OCHA's top policy priorities are Justice, Education and Jobs/Economy

Biggest successes: Passage of 2016's HB 4128 on Immigration Fraud. OCHA Commissioners Judith Parker and John Haroldson served as key members of the legislative taskforce that developed the recommendations for House Bill HB 4128 that passed in the 2016 legislature. The bill adds important penalties for fraud by immigration consultants.

Emerging area of policy interest: Inclusive social studies and ethnic studies. OCHA has long advocated for k-12 educational curriculum that includes the cultural histories of Oregon's diverse communities. OCHA Commissioner Joe Gallegos joined former OCHA Commissioner Representative Diego Hernandez in support of the 2017 Ethnic Studies bill. Dr. Gallegos delivered the joint testimony of the Advocacy Commissions Chairs.

OCHA's 18 supported bills in the 2015-16 Legislative sessions



Education

2015

SB 187A, Student data protection ✓ *

SB 215, OEIB sunset ✓ *

HB 3308A, HECC group on disparities ✓ *



Housing and Stable Families

2016

SB 1533A, Inclusionary zoning ✓ *

2015

HB 2478, Gender neutral statute wording for marriage ✓

SB 939, Programs for children of incarcerated parents **



Justice, Safety and Policing

2016

HB 4128, Immigration consultant fraud ✓ *

2015

HB 2002, CJC for profiling complaints ✓ *

HB 2205, Fund to end commercial exploitation of children for sex ✓ *

HB 3525, Reporting immigrant consultant abuse ✓ *



Jobs and the Economy

2015

SB 454A, Employer sick time benefits ✓ *

HB 2005, Employer sick time benefits *

HB 2734, Brownfield contamination remediation ✓ *

HB 3304A, Landscape certification in alternate formats ✓



Health and Healthcare

2016

HB 4017, OHA Basic Health Plan ✓ *

HB 4071, COFA premium assistance, Supported ✓ *

2015

HB 3517A, Health coverage for all children ✓



Environmental Justice

2016

HB 4036, Clean energy and community solar panels ✓ *

✓ passed * OAC joint support
** accomplished through budget note

Leadership

Growing leadership for Hispanic and Latino Oregonians

The OCHA works to grow the number and influence of Hispanic and Latino Oregonians within all branches of state government.

■ As part of this work, the OCHA works with the Governor's Executive Appointments Office to recruit members of the Latino community statewide to serve on Oregon's Boards and Commissions.

■ The Commission also offers student research internships to diverse, bi-lingual and bi-cultural Master's Degree Candidates interested in growing their experience in state level research experience and receive mentoring on the policy implications of their work with OCHA and state partners.

Public Policy Research

OCHA provides Masters, PhD, and Law students with for-credit public policy internships addressing our strategic priorities. The research is conducted jointly with state partners, and the Governor's Office to study data, best practices, effective policies, literature review, analyze gaps, suggest remedies and produce reports used by the Advocacy Commissions and their partners to inform new policies, develop strategic approaches and craft bills that improve the success of Latinos and Hispanic Oregonians statewide.

OCHA 2016–17 Policy research projects

Mental Health Services disparities of Latino Oregonians; associated consequences and strategies to address gaps. In the spring of 2017, OCHA is partnering with DHS and OHA to conduct the first joint study of disparities in mental health services delivery and access by Oregon Latinos in 15 years.

Partners: OCHA/Oregon Department of Human Services and Oregon Health Authority/Governor's Office.

OCHA appointment to Legislative Task Force on Immigration Consultant Fraud.

OCHA Commissioners Judy Parker and John Haroldson were appointed in 2015 to the legislative Task Force providing law enforcement with improved tools to fight notario fraud, and expanding the Secretary of State's regulatory authority over unlawful practice of law. Taskforce members included: OCHA, DOJ, immigration attorneys, District Attorneys' Association, State Bar, and was co-chaired by Sen. Gelser and Rep. Vega Pederson.

Partnerships

2015–16 Joint Legislative Days with Latino Health Coalition (OLHC)

The OCHA joined its community partner OLHC for a joint Legislative Day at the Capitol in 2015 and 2016. OCHA Commissioners joined the other attendees including community and faith leaders, college students, parents and children from across the state. The participants were welcomed in the Capitol with presentations from legislators and other leaders.

2016–17 Policy Research Partnerships

As part of its policy research work on mental health disparities for Latinos, OCHA built a partnership with the Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Authority and the Governor's Office on Equity and Inclusion to identify best practices, analyze data, and make policy recommendations to improve outcomes.

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Read OCHA's full report at:
www.oregon.gov/Hispanic/pdfs/2015-17_Biennial_Report.pdf

The mission of the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA) is to work toward economic, social, political and legal equality for Oregon's Hispanic population.

OCHA Commissioners

Andrea Cano—Past Chair
Portland

Irma Linda Castillo*—Vice Chair
Portland

Jonathan Chavez-Baez*
Ashland

Dr. Daniel López-Cevallos*
Corvallis

Dr. Joe Gallegos*
Hillsboro

Cynthia Gómez
Portland

John Haroldson
Corvallis

Diego Hernandez—Past Vice Chair
Portland

Alberto Moreno*—Chair
Portland

Judith Parker
Forest Grove

Marisa Salinas*
Salem

Sen. Chip Shields
Portland

Sen. Sara Gelser*
Albany, Corvallis, Philomath

Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson
Portland

Rep. Teresa Alonso León*
Woodburn

* current commissioner

Principles and Values

- Equity for Hispanic Oregonians in jobs and the economy, education, health, safety, family stability, environment, and civic engagement.
- Equal treatment and protection against discrimination.
- Access to helpful information on services and available resources.
- Working in partnership on research and policy analysis of longstanding issues and barriers to success within the Hispanic community statewide.
- Inclusion of viewpoints of the Hispanic community in policy making at the state level.
- Celebration of and education about the contributions and achievements of Hispanic Oregonians.

Goals and Activities

- Advocate for equitable policies assuring the success of Latino and Hispanic Oregonians at the state level.
- Engage community and state partners to promote equity for Latinos statewide.
- Study and analyze issues affecting the Hispanic community statewide and recommend policy remedies to state policy makers.
- Grow and develop leaders the Hispanic community at the state level in all branches.
- Increase the viability and visibility of the contributions and achievements of Hispanic Oregonians statewide.



Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

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