



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DATE: February 28, 2019

TO: Honorable Greg Smith, Co-Chair of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government
Honorable Rob Wagner, Co-Chair of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government

FROM: Ellen R. Rosenblum, Oregon Attorney General

SUBJECT: HB 5001 – Appropriating Funds to the Oregon Advocacy Commissions

Dear Co-Chairs Smith and Wagner, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 5001, the budget bill for the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office. The Oregon Advocacy Commissions, including the Commission on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs, Commission on Black Affairs, Commission on Hispanic Affairs and the Commission on Women's Affairs each serve a unique and important role in advocating for individual diverse communities in our state. These Commissions, in their own right, help strengthen the important rich fabric of our state, and lend a powerful voice to the communities they serve.

As the Attorney General, I have relied on these Commissions in order to gather demographics, data and information to help my office prepare declarations and other specific information in support of litigation on behalf of Oregonians, and in defense of our state's sovereignty. In particular, individuals from the OCHA served as experts in our important case challenging the policy of separating families at the border.

The support and partnership of the Commissions has been essential to our efforts throughout the years. It is critical they are funded and able to continue supporting equity and inclusion for unique and diverse communities throughout the state. They are an invaluable resource to us all.

Sincerely,

Ellen R. Rosenblum
Oregon Attorney General