



March 25, 2019

To: The House Business and Labor Committee and the Senate Workforce Committee  
From: Zeenia Junkeer  
Re: Support of HB 3031

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Zeenia Junkeer and I am the Director of the Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA). OHEA is a people of color-led collaborative, organized to center and uplift the wisdom of our communities of color through racial justice informed health equity policies and practices as part of the movement to dismantle white supremacy and shift the imbalance of power. OHEA is one of four regional health equity coalitions and two capacity building sites; we cover the tri county region, including Washington, Multnomah and Clackamas Counties.

Health equity is rooted in dismantling and shifting oppressive structural and systemic practices that affect individuals and communities' ability to thrive. Health equity is achieved when every person has the opportunity, resources, power and autonomy to attain their full health potential. In order to achieve health equity, systems that sustain beliefs and behaviors rooted in the oppression of our communities based on race, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, ability, religion, immigration status, and other characteristics, must be dismantled.

To this end, we are strong supporters of HB 3031. For OHEA, we are particularly excited about the inclusive definition of family, ensuring however families define themselves, they are protected, and the opportunities for our communities of color, often working in jobs and sectors that do not offer paid time off or opportunities to take leave, to be centered in the FAMLI Equity Act.

At OHEA we look to the wisdom and expertise of our communities of color and those who live at the intersections of multiple identities often disregarded by current policies and practices. Communities are coming together across Oregon in support of this bill, and we are in support of stronger mechanisms for families to be supported and offered the time and support they need to care for their loved ones.

In Health,

Zeenia Junkeer, ND  
Director, Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA)