

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
421 SW Oak St., Portland, OR 97204
O 503.302.9725
Email: oaco.mail@oregon.gov
Website: www.oregon.gov/OCBA

House Committee on Rules
HB 3409, testimony in support
April 3, 2019, at 3pm, in Hearing Room C

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs House Democratic Leaders Williamson and House Republican Leader Wilson, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 3409 that implements policies to address bullying, racial taunting, and other behaviors at interscholastic events. We, the members of the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs in coalition with the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, Commission on Hispanic Affairs, and Commission for Women, believe that the HB 3409 provides the needed clarity for coaches, students, athletes, and spectators around such verbal assaults, and provides the authority and mechanism to apply them. As recent articles have described and the State School Board Chair's Op Ed and interview have outlined, these incidents are not uncommon. We are asking much of the affected student athletes to maintain demeanor and order among their teams or classmates in such toxic environments.

The leadership and maturity of the young men and women students who have experienced these assaults while remaining civil and self-contained for the good of the school and the team, must be reflected in state and school policies. The students are leading on this issue, and we commend the 2019 legislature for following their positive example and passing HB 3409.

This is an opportunity to honor the leadership of Oregon youth by our actions, and our appreciation, with invitations to the team captains who held it all together under assault, as this bill is signed. We look forward to joining with you on that day.

Sincerely,

Jamal T. Fox, OCBA Chair

Irma Linda Castillo, OCHA Chair

Chanpone Sinlapasai-Okamura, OCAPIA Chair

Dr. Barbara Spencer, OCFW Chair

OR Commission on Black Affairs

Chair:

Jamal T. Fox, MPA

Vice Chair:

Lawanda Manning

Commissioners:

Angela Addae, JD

Djimet Dogo

Benjamin Duncan

Mariotta Gary-Smith

Musse Olol

Legislative Members:

Senator (vacant)

Rep. Janelle Bynum

Staff:

Lucy Baker, Administrator

Nancy Kramer, Executive Asst.

Dr. Connie Kim-Gervey, Research

Analyst