

I'm strongly urging support for additional funding for the OACO.

While the Oregon legislature has begun the important work of reckoning with its white supremacist history, efforts have largely been symbolic and/or consisted of "calls for change". Until actual material support is allocated for this work, change will not come. Having spent the last several years organizing in the field of Early Learning to pass measure 26-214 (Preschool for All) in Multnomah County, I've seen firsthand the intersection of the multi-pronged oppression that this office is tasked with combating. Making headway is contingent on staffing the work, and frankly, the ask here is very modest.

Failure to add capacity to this office risks:

- Undermining the work of the volunteer commissioners by insufficiently supporting their invaluable work and processes;
- Signalling to the community at large that this office is seen as less important, or as not being key to progress in the state;
- Perpetuating oversights embedded in existing legislative structures further into the future.

In addition to supporting this budget ask, I suggest the subcommittee considers amending it to fund up to 10 additional positions.