



State Library of Oregon

Government Information and Library Services

Oregon Legislature
Joint Committee on Ways and Means General Government Subcommittee

Written Testimony on Behalf of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office

March 3, 2021

To the Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means General Government Subcommittee:

My name is Natalie Brant, and I am a Reference Librarian at the State Library of Oregon. I am the liaison librarian to the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office, and I wanted to impart to the Committee what a fulfilling and positive partnership the State Library and the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office (OACO) share.

I have been working directly with the OACO since 2017 and have provided research resources and support for many of their policy reports. Most of these policy reports are focused on raising up underserved populations in Oregon and giving them a voice, as well as clearing their paths to equality and enabling their success. The work that the Commissions do has only become more essential in light of the increase in racially motivated violence against many of these populations, as can be seen in the [Senate Bill 577 report](#) released in July 2020 from the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. The necessity of the work of the Commissions is also shown in the [disparities](#) that have been highlighted during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic for these underserved populations in our state.

Some of the reports I've assisted the OACO in researching, that particularly focus on the challenges faced by these communities, are as follows (I have linked these reports to their record in the State Library catalog as well):

[Crisis de nuestro bienestar: a report on Latino mental health in Oregon](#)

[The re-credentialing of skilled immigrants in the United States: barriers and pathways to the workforce and frameworks for success](#)



[Policy Analysis Research Report: Responding To Disproportionate Disciplinary Action with Culturally Relevant Education Strategies in Oregon K-12 Public Schools](#)

Providing research support important policy issues with OACO has been a highlight of my time working for the State Library and the State of Oregon. The work that they do is some of the most compassionate and invested in the communities they serve that I have encountered. I wanted to share this with the Committee as an OACO partner with a close understanding about how much thought, research, and empathy goes into everything that they do.

Thank you,

Natalie Brant

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