

To: Joint Subcommittee on General Government
From: Daniel Portis-Cathers
Date: March 2, 2021
Re: Support for Senate Bill 5501

Co-Chair Golden, Co-Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

I am a White, 65-year-old, male, business owner, homeowner, educated, able-bodied, heterosexual, English-speaking, active member of the Portland/Oregon community. Many of you recognize yourselves in the dominant culture advantages I have just listed. I acknowledge that my voice is most effective where my privilege intersects other people's oppression. In a capitalist society, one of the most effective ways we can give legs to our beliefs is by designating resources to the agencies that are attempting to carry out those beliefs. The extremely modest request by the Oregon Advocacy Commission Office to fund an additional 1.5 FTE is a small, but excellent opportunity to do just that.

Oregon's policies, like those of all U.S. states, have too often given lip service to anti-racism while avoiding the hard work of backing up those policies with the resources and support to implement them. This could be a small, but wonderful step toward changing that tendency. I invite you to wholeheartedly and unapologetically support it.

Respectfully,

Daniel Portis-Cathers