

Members of the committee,

I strongly urge you to pass SB 5501 and provide more desperately needed funding to the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office.

This office is focused on supporting 4 critically important commissions, all of which are working on the betterment of underrepresented communities across the state. Looking around at the events of the past year, there can be no denying the need for this work. The fact that this agency has the smallest staff of all the independent agencies demonstrates a lack of investment that needs to be righted. This modest budget increase is a needed first step in better supporting this office's work and by extension the commissions on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, Black Affairs, Hispanic Affairs, and the Oregon Commission for Women.

Please support SB 5501. Thank you.