

NW DISABILITY SUPPORT

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February 2, 2021

Dear Honorable Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Human Services
Honorable Representative Rob Nosse, Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Human Services

NW Disability Support/NWDSA/All Born In is a best practices family driven, grassroots organization that supports over 5000 local families and professionals in the region. We are staffed by people with disabilities and parents of individuals with developmental disabilities www.abicomunity.org & www.nwdsa.org. We are also deeply immersed in the support of the Latinx community and have staff bilingual and collaborate with DD Council and 32 other organizations through our ABI coalition. We are dedicated to supporting families and individuals in building inclusive and healthy lives in the community and appreciate the opportunity to offer our support for the Oregon Health Authority work with community-based organizations around Covid 19 information, outreach and support. We are in support of OHA Policy Option Package.

OHA (POP) #417 was included in the Governor's Recommended Budget for \$30M. This includes funds for community-based organizations, local public health authorities and Tribes to work on non-COVID-19 communicable disease prevention and environmental health/environmental justice work in the 2021-23 biennium.

At the OHA level, this POP continues staffing support from our Community Engagement Team. This work is vital to at risk underrepresented populations who are most likely to have severe impacts related to COVID-19.

We are one of the funded CBO's working on outreach and education. This funding creates the capacity for us to be engaged and proactive partners supporting our impacted community and providing valuable feedback to OHA. COVID-19 affects all of us and we share a common goal to protect and promote the health of all people in Oregon. Equity requires partnership, trust, and deep listening as well as hard work. We have experienced many challenges and appreciated the opportunity to work with our Community Engagement Team and other Community Based Organizations.

One example of our work is an accessible, culturally responsive, educational and professionally produced Fighting COVID-19 comic in English in Spanish that has been distributed to over 40K

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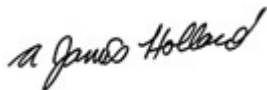
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Oregonians. People with disabilities reviewed and helped create the relevant content as well as Latinx community trans-created. OHA approved the content and helped dissemination. At a time of crisis, all our creativity and understanding of needs have to be drawn on to best serve the community.

We have heard a lot of ways this comic has helped. Here is one story that was sent to us. There was a mother of a young girl who experiences Autism that was so upset and anxious about COVID-19 that every time she heard the word would run from room to room screaming when she heard it mentioned. We mailed her the comic book and received in return a success story of understanding and a song written by the young person who had a new more empowered understanding. We are able to share out widely as a trusted resource and use all the skills and resources of OHA also.

OHA has ambitious equity goals and this funding is essential to deepen the work of partnerships. Our community needs this investment.

Sincerely,



Angela Jarvis- Holland Executive Director
NW Disability Support
www.abicommunity.org - www.nwdsa.org