

I write in support of HB2337. As a Family Medicine Registered Nurse I both read the science and have seen in my everyday work that societal factors are a greater influence on health and illness than any medical care that we provide. Racism, poverty, other discrimination, skewed funding policies, and so many other social determinants of health are crucial to whether individual Oregonians can live lives of physical and mental health and dignity versus lives filled with acute and chronic physical and mental illness. Declaring racism a public health emergency, and beginning to dedicate resources to systemically understand these problems and address them in State programs is so essential to our wellbeing as a State and to the equity we should strive for in our society. Thank you for your careful attention to this bill.