

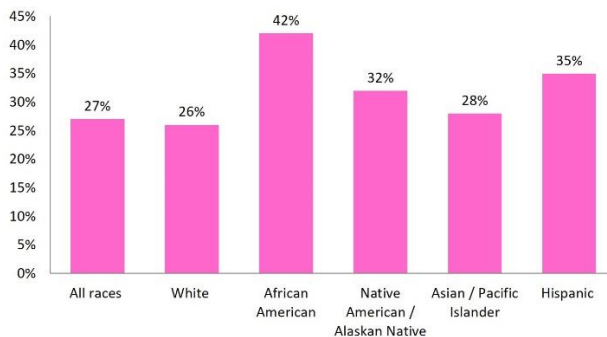
Chair House Democratic Leader Barbara Smith Warner
Vice-Chair House Republican Leader Christine Drazan
Vice-Chair Representative Paul Holvey
Members, House Committee on Rules

March 22, 2021

Dear House Committee on Rules –

We would like to show our support of House Bill 2337. Racism causes harm, trauma, illness, and death to Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) Oregonians. We see it in breast cancer late-stage diagnosis and mortality rates, where, despite generally similar screening rates, BIPOC individuals are often diagnosed at a later stage and die more often from breast cancer than the general population. The chart below, taken from our 2015 Community Profile, shows that BIPOC women are diagnosed more often with late-stage breast cancer, when it is more difficult to treat and, therefore, can be more deadly. The ‘why’ behind these disparities is often rooted in racism with systemic policies that impede access and affect social determinants of health.

Race and Late Stage Diagnosis in Oregon



House Bill 2337 seeks to address racism as a public health crisis by:

- Expanding and supporting the collection of REAL-D data,
- Disrupting policy and laws from maintaining racist outcomes,
- Meaningfully investing in community engagement to identify future strategies,
- Increasing health equity through language access,
- Removing barriers to increase access and quality of care in BIPOC communities, and
- Increasing community voice in the legislative process.

As this bill will improve lives, make our work in BIPOC communities easier, and, therefore, assist those in the breast cancer continuum of care, Susan G. Komen Oregon and SW Washington is proud to support HB2337, and we respectfully request you support it, as well.

Sincerely,

Cindy Fletcher, MBA
Director of Programs