

Committee members - I am writing in support of HB 2337 which would declare racism a public health crisis in Oregon and set several steps into action to address it. This bill is an important step in acknowledging Oregon's racist roots and practices while also recognizing that racism and racist-based systems continue to cause harm and trauma today. Racism, indeed, causes much harm, trauma, illness and even death to Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). Chronic illnesses, particularly those caused by stress, more prevalent in BIPOC communities. In the COVID 19 pandemic Black, Indigenous People of Color have consistently born the greatest hardship in terms of cases, illnesses and deaths. HB 2337 would result in better data collection to track health disparities, plus make meaningful investments to identify strategies that would help the most. It would also require health information be provided in more languages, thereby increasing health equity and increase and improve health care to all people in Oregon. By addressing racism as a public health crisis, Oregon can save money, prevent deaths and improve the lives of all who live here. Thank you for your consideration. I urge you to support HB 2337.

Thank you,  
Sarah Rohrs  
Salem, Oregon