

Date: 3/22/2021

Chair Smith Warner and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Stick Crosby. I am an advocate in Medford, OR. I am writing to request your support for HB2337.

HB 2337 declares racism a public health crisis in Oregon. Racism causes harm, trauma, illness, and death to Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) Oregonians. HB 2337 acknowledges that Oregon's very founding as a state was rooted in racist ideals, and the damaging impact of these and other racist policies continue to exist within our present-day policies and systems. Further, this bill signals the need for accelerated, intentional actions to heal these injustices and articulates six initial strategies and investments to address health inequities.

Racism is pervasive and is integrated into every institution and system that is connected to the social determinants of health, and ultimately impacts Oregonian's ability to be healthy and well to the fullest potential.

Incidents of racism consistently experienced by Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities and Tribes create racial disparities in social, health, economic, legal, and academic outcomes. I have watched this in my own community where children of color have developed depression from the social isolation occurring within the classroom from explicate Racism.

Racial justice requires the formation and purposeful reinforcement of policies, practices, ideologies and behaviors that create equitable power, access, opportunity, treatment, and outcomes for all people regardless of race and redistribute resources to invest where inequities are greatest.

HB 2337 was developed by the Oregon Health Equity Task Force which is composed of leaders and community-based organizations representing BIPOC, Tribal, and Immigrant and Refugee communities and includes six initial strategies that are responsive to the specific needs of their communities to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities. The six strategies must be maintained and not compromised as part of the legislative process. Those strategies were:

1. Expand and support the collection of REAL-D data
2. Meaningfully invest in community engagement to identify future strategies
3. Health Equity Policy Analyst to disrupt policy from maintaining racist outcomes
4. Increase health equity through language access
5. Increase community voice in the legislative process
6. Remove barriers to increase access and quality of care in BIPOC communities

Lastly, Healthcare and Healthcare institutions are increasingly funding, or providing Social Services related to the Social Determinates of Health and Equity. To not implement the six strategies above now, as these services are added to healthcare delivery, white supremacy will

continue to be institutionalized within these systems to ensure power, privilege and resources remain in the hands of white men.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service. I urge you to support HB 2337.

Sincerely,  
Stick Crosby  
Medford, Or