



Oregon Pediatric Society

A Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Incorporated in Oregon

DATE: March 19, 2021

TO: Honorable Representative Rachel Prusak, Chair
Representatives Andrea Salinas and Cedric Hayden, Vice Chairs
And Members of the House Committee on Health Care

FROM: Laurel Murphy Hoffmann, MD, MPH
Oregon Pediatric Society Member

SUBJECT: Support for HB 2337 - Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis

For the record, I am Laurel Hoffmann, MD, MPH, a member of the Oregon Pediatric Society and a general pediatrician at a children's hospital. HB 2337 declares racism as a public health crisis. As such, it is a step in the right direction towards a safer, healthier world for children who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).

As a pediatrician, I see children from BIPOC communities who have worse health outcomes due to inequitable access to necessary health care. We need legislation to address these inequities in our medical and public health systems.

I strongly support HB 2337 because it enhances health equity from many levels. Pediatricians and other child health providers need access to high quality interpreters in order to provide outstanding care to children and families from diverse backgrounds. HB 2337 will ensure better access to interpreters. We need more thorough investigations into who is impacted by health inequities. HB 2337 will enhance how we collect race, ethnicity, language, and, disability data. We need to hear from these communities in order to remedy health injustices, and HB 2337 gives voice to BIPOC Oregonians. Our state has the opportunity to stand up for ALL children and families, and it is time to do so by voting YES on HB 2337.

Thank you for your consideration.