

Chair Smith Warner and Members of the Committee,

My name is Eric Ardman. I am a medical doctor at a large hospital in Portland, OR; I also hold my clinic in Portland, OR as well. I am writing to testify in support for HB2337.

HB 2337 declares racism a public health crisis in Oregon. While there are clear, thoroughly-researched causations between racism and poor health outcomes, much of the damage and how racism functions in day-to-day life remains unnamed. Unfortunately, many providers, myself included, would find it difficult to quickly recall more than a handful of instances where racism was clearly and directly responsible for their patients' poor health or limited understanding of their health. That is not to say racism doesn't exist or is inconsequential. Rather, it's to say that we need more attention paid to racism and its consequences **in all aspects of our lives**. We need everyone and every institution to be committed to the identification, recording, and elimination of racist actions and policy, so that they may be replaced with more equitable policies rooted in Love and Justice. Passing HB2337 is a crucial step in starting this process. By naming racism for what it is, a public health crisis, we draw much needed attention to one of the main drivers of health disparities and illness in this state. When a problem has a name, we can begin to meaningfully understand it and solve it more quickly and efficiently.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and for your efforts to manifest a healthier Oregon.