

March 23rd, 2021

Dear Chair Smith Warner and Members of the House Committee on Rules,

For the record, my name is Joan Goldhammer. I am an individual advocate from the First United Methodist Church of Beaverton, Beaverton, Or. I believe that this letter also represents the wishes of our congregation as well. I am writing to request your support of **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.

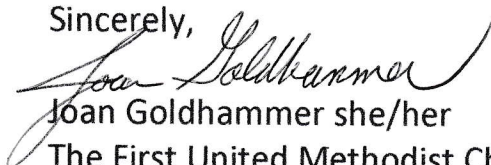
We have dug deep into the history and effects of racism in Oregon through our Social Justice in Action Team started in 2020 at our church. We acknowledge, that we also, collectively as a church and individually as predominately white people are part of systemic racism. We have been, and are, taking steps to change this, including partnering with OHA to provide COVID related information and preventive COVID supplies to BIPOC communities in our area.

Racism is the reason why COVID-19 has hit communities of color harder. In Oregon, Latinos represent nearly 40% of COVID-19 cases, despite the fact that they only comprise about 13% of the population. (Oregon Health Authority, 2020. COVID-19 Weekly Report: October 14, 2020).

Racism in Oregon and nationwide has created a situation that is untenable and where immediate action must be taken to mitigate further harm and violence against BIPOC Oregonians and Tribes.

Thank you for your service and thoughtful consideration of support for **HB 2337**

Sincerely,



Joan Goldhammer she/her

The First United Methodist Church of Beaverton, Council Chairperson
503-680-0480- joan.goldhammer@gmail.com