

I write to support HB2337 which declares racism as a public health crisis in Oregon. As an educator, I have seen up close the disparities that have been highlighted during the pandemic. Unfortunately, these disparities have always existed, and I have witnessed the negative effects of racism on students of color throughout my career. We know that the outcomes for Black, Native, and Indigenous people are impacted negatively as a result of racism and are manifested through lack of access to high quality, equitable funded school programs, access to high quality health care, and even access to healthy and nutritious food. It seems that equity is a word often discussed in Oregon, but the time has come to actually put actions behind our words.