

Since 1980 I have taught, in Japan and in Oregon, and have worked with, for, and taught many thousands of individuals from Asian and Spanish-Speaking cultures. I have felt the results of prejudice, and have witnessed racism. My spouse is a Japanese citizen and our three children are bilingual, multicultural, multiracial. Through these guides and on my own as a learning ally joining organizations and community leaders, I can see HB 2337 is vital for Oregon as we realize that racism is a public health crisis. HB 2337 had a hearing in the House Committee on Rules Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 1:00 PM.

My family and I encourage you to support HB 2337 as an important piece of public health legislation. Racism is the underlying driver of many health disparities, and no institution or system that impacts the social determinants of health is exempt from the oppressive history and current-day reality of racism. HB 2337 begins the work of acknowledging Oregon's racist history and contemporary inequities and makes resource investments to address health inequities among BIPOC communities in Oregon.