

**Kate Brown**  
Governor



**Oregon Commission on Asian and  
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House Committee on Rules  
Testimony in Support of HB 2337  
March 23, 2021

Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chair Drazan and Vice-Chair Paul Holvey, and Members Bonham, Fahey, Salinas, and Zika,

My name is Neha Subramanyam and I am a Commissioner on the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA). I'd like to submit this written testimony in support of HB 2337.

HB 2337 addresses a wide variety of issues regarding access, engagement, and culturally and linguistically appropriate health care services for BIPOC and tribal communities and individuals with disabilities. This bill supports the consistent collection of demographic data across the State and a racial health equity analysis for every bill passing through its first hearing – these processes will help enable more powerful analyses and advocacy for marginalized groups. All of these actions are critical steps in further understanding and dismantling racism.

HB 2337 calls for OHA to provide funding to local public health authorities to operate mobile health units in every region of the state, and that each mobile unit be staffed by individuals who reflect the population that they serve. This will be important in ensuring that services are provided in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner for black, indigenous communities and people of color. In the process of determining the number of mobile health units and diverse staff needed for each region, it will be very important that Oregon Health Authority consult the local community. According to HB 2337, the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office (OACO) will be funded to do part of this work – to convene affinity group task forces (for BIPOC and tribes) to discuss, research, and make recommendations allocating resources for improving health inequities. With adequate resourcing, the OACO is well positioned and highly interested to do this important work.

Sincerely,

Neha Subramanyam