

**Kate Brown**  
Governor



**Oregon Commission for Women**  
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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 Robin Morris Collin. I am the Norma Paulus Professor of Law at Willamette University College of Law. As a volunteer, I have served as a Commissioner on Black Affairs (two terms) and also the Oregon Commission for Women (former Chair) for a total of eight years of service. During that time, I have worked closely with the leadership of the Commissions and the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office.

This bill supports and invests in our state’s commitment to the public health of state by recognizing and funding the necessary investment in culturally competent, robust, and linguistically specific health care.

The pandemic has exposed the tremendous costs in lives and livelihoods to our most vulnerable and exposed communities. It has revealed this grim toll in the disproportionate losses to black, indigenous people and communities of color and poor communities throughout our state, including in our rural areas. This bill invests in the necessary outreach to these vulnerable and traumatized areas. These communities include some of our most essential working people, without whom our economy cannot function, including people who work in grocery stores, pharmacies, farming and food provisioning, and transportation of goods to markets, health care workers and other essential services. These are the people with whom we are most connected by our economies regardless of our beliefs and their health is inextricably connected to our own.

This bill will use the unique functions and abilities of the Advocacy Commissions to lift the voices and involve these communities. The Advocacy Commissions have demonstrated their superior abilities to implement policy-based measures equitably within our communities. These services have been severely stressed by the lack of adequate and appropriate funding to support their work.

I urge you to support this forward-looking and strategic legislation, HB 2337.

Sincerely,

Robin Morris Collin