

**Kate Brown**  
Governor



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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,

I am Ugonna Enyinnaya, a Commissioner with the Oregon Commission For Women. I support HB 2337 which declares racism a public health crisis for a number of reasons:

- It requires authority to fund mobile health units to provide linguistically and culturally appropriate service in every region. I strongly believe this will pave the way to have providers who are familiar and accessible to the community. Having healthcare providers who look like the communities they serve is a great way to foster diversity in healthcare and ensure providers are rendering culturally and linguistically appropriate services to the communities they serve, especially the immigrant community and communities of color. This measure will go a long way to improve the health of minority individuals.
- Racial Health Equity Analysis for every bill that passes first hearing will take into consideration the impacts of the bill upon BIPOC communities and federally recognized tribes. I am confident this will ensure every bill passes through the lens of equity before it is passed. This will also help identify and eliminate any potential inequities inherent in the bill from inception.
- Additionally, I am an immigrant and a woman of color. There is uncontestable data that shows that my community has been hit hard by the current public health crisis. This bill grants equitable access, culturally and linguistically appropriate health care service for people in my community, including tribal communities and individuals with disabilities.
- Finally, this bill gives the Oregon Advocacy Commission Office the capacity through adequate funding to serve our minority communities effectively. OACO has served and advocated for the underrepresented and underserved communities. This bill will enable the commissions to continue to bridge the equity gaps inherent in our communities.

Sincerely,

Ugonna Enyinnaya