

**Kate Brown**  
Governor



**Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs**  
“Advocating Equality and Diversity”  
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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 Ashley Espinoza, and I am a Commissioner on the Commission on Hispanic Affairs. I strongly support HB 2337. As a Latina woman that has grown up in this state, my family and I have experienced firsthand the numerous scenarios of how engrained systematic racism has affected us and has limited our allowable contributions to this state. We know that my family isn't the only family and that there are thousands of other cases that have experienced similar events and beyond our experience.

It is crucial that we as a state elevate and bring urgency to the fact that racism is a public health crisis. We also need to be collecting consistent data for powerful analysis. Collecting statewide data that is consistent and that recognizes historically marginalized groups and status. Having consistency in data will enable more powerful analyses and advocacy for these groups.

It is also important that providers are familiar and accessible to the communities they serve. Health care that comes to the people with culturally and linguistically appropriate services including basic health services (BH services, oral health services and preventive screenings) with a focus on the communities that the OACs serve.

We need to make an intentional effort in listening and learning from those that have been historically underserved. We need to staff each region with the amount of culturally and linguistically appropriate people that are needed to provide quality and robust care.

Many times, we undervalue the labor of coordination, facilitation, actionable research, recommendation configuration, and administrative duties. These efforts will also recommend whether their work should/not continue beyond 6/30/23. Based on the recommendations from this work, OHA will establish and fund culturally and linguistically specific intervention programs. We want to express the importance of the OACO being properly funded to do the work.

Continued assessment and accountability are extremely important in our efforts to create a state that is responsive and serves all that call Oregon their home. We ask that there also be a racial health equity analysis for every bill. The Legislative Equity Office will conduct a racial health

equity analysis on every bill that passes through its first hearing. This analysis will be developed by the Legislative Equity Office and will include considerations of the (positive and negative) impacts upon BIPOC communities and federally recognized tribes, and indicate the extent to which communities and data regarding them were involved in the development of the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley Espinoza', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley Espinoza