



Majority Leader Barbara Smith Warner – Chair
Republican Leader Christine Drazan – Vice-Chair
House Committee on Rules
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Testimony in support of HB 2337

Dear Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chair Drazan, and Members of the House Committee on Rules

Oregon faces substantial racial disparities in health outcomes. The introduction of HB 2337 recounts numerous racist state-level policy actions between the 1800s and the mid-20th century. These direct policy actions have contributed to inequities that have - in some cases - cascaded through many generations.

Racial inequities in health today are perpetuated through neglect, unconscious bias, and intervention and prevention efforts that are not delivered through culturally and linguistically appropriate methods. We need look no farther than the current COVID-19 pandemic to see much higher rates of infection and lower rates of vaccination in communities of color who are placed at higher risk because of employment, living situations, and lack of access to health information.

HB 2337 will help address racial disparities in health outcomes in our state. The data collection and health service measures in the bill will help us understand and address the unique health challenges of people of color in our state and help us develop effective intervention and prevention efforts to reduce inequities. These efforts must be culturally and linguistically appropriate and they must reach people of color in the places where they live and work. HB 2337 will help deliver public health effectively to these communities with thoughtful approaches such as mobile health units, which have proven highly effective here in Central Oregon.

Please support HB 2337 and the important equity and inclusion goals that it embodies. If you would like to discuss how a piece of legislation like this could be implemented at the community level please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Phil Chang
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