

March 2nd, 2021

Re: Supporting HB 2337

Chair Prusak, Vice Chair Hayden, Vice Chair Salinas, and Members of the Committee,

I live and work in Eugene, helping nonprofits and governments to use data to improve the quality of their services and deepen their benefit to communities.

HB 2337 declares racism as a public health crisis in Oregon. Racism causes harm, trauma, illness, and death to Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) Oregonians. HB 2337 acknowledges that Oregon's very founding as a state was rooted in racist ideals, and the damaging impact of these and other racist policies continue to exist within our present-day policies and systems. Further, this bill signals the need for accelerated, intentional actions to heal these injustices and articulates six initial strategies and investments to address health inequities.