

28 February 2021

To: House Committee on Rules

Re: House Bill 2991

Dear Chair Representative Smith Warner, Vice-Chairs Representatives Drazan and Holvey, and members of the Committee:

I am opposed to HB 2991 and urge the Committee to table the bill.

Back in the 60s we used to say "label cans, not people." That is still good advice today.

Consider the currently trendy moniker *inclusiveness* engulfing nearly all discourse lately. Almost by definition the term rules out enumerating racial and ethnic differences. This bill merely promotes emphasizing the differences between people.

It is a fact. People are different. Does that fact really need emphasis?

I do not believe our state is divided along ethnic or racial lines and those who claim otherwise probably have some vested interest in keeping our citizens divided. Promoting differences is the easiest way for them to maintain control over various groups—keeping those so separated in their specified groups and warring with one another. That does not promote this elusive and much sought after *inclusiveness*.

Different ideologies amongst Oregon voters is a problem. There is no denying that. But it is not a racial or ethnic problem. House Bill 2991 will merely reinforce and codify the very differences many are attempting to meliorate.

House Bill 2991 is poor legislation and the writing on the wall concerning it and similar legislation has been written for a long time.

House Bill 2991 should be tabled.

Sincerely,



Richard Wisner