

Hello,

My name is David Swords and I reside in Multnomah County.
I am writing to request your vote in favor of Senate Bill 5501.

When we underfund programs - specifically like the Oregon Advocacy Commissions (OAC) - systemic waves of restraint result: Oregon communicates that we do not really care nor fully believe that Asian and Pacific Islanders, Black, Hispanic and Latinx, Women, and other underrepresented communities of color matter to our great State. Oregon is better than this and by expanding the budget and its subsequent support staff growth, this further shows Oregon's commitment to diversity and acceptance. If we insufficiently budget these efforts, we stunt the progress which even further limits underrepresented communities of color of opportunities for their work to be discounted, dismissed, and further undervalued.

Let's promote the joy, enthusiasm and our commitment to the lives, educations, economic opportunities, and futures of the communities that have been excluded and abused.

This is a modest budget allocation, one which reflects the sign of the times to which a great deal of catch up work must ensue, thus requiring a more robust and expansive teams of devoted staff. We expect heroic efforts from the people involved to address challenges that we have already established are systemic, ingrained in our institutions, and toxic. Let's walk our own talk. Thank you Committee Members for your proactive consideration.