

Submitter: Amanda Nobel Flannery

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Health Care

Measure: HB4052

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

My name is Amanda Nobel Flannery. I am writing to request your support for HB 4052.

I want to thank the Legislature for declaring racism a public health crisis in the 2021 session. Now we need to identify and fund specific strategies to begin addressing the crisis. Racism causes harm, trauma, illness, and death to Black, Indigenous, and people of color Oregonians.

The initial initial strategies in HB 4052 based on the Oregon Health Equity Task Force's work with Rep. Salinas will begin to address both immediate needs of these communities to reduce racial and ethnic health inequities, as well as creating a pathway for future strategies to address structural racism in the future.

Racism is the reason that even when you control for educational attainment and income inequality that people of color still experience higher rates of health inequities and average years of life lost (Colen, Ramey, Cooksey, Williams (2018)).

Racial justice requires the formation and purposeful reinforcement of policies, practices, ideologies and behaviors that create equitable power, access, opportunity, treatment, and outcomes for all people regardless of race and redistribute resources to invest where inequities are greatest.

Racism in Oregon and nationwide has created a situation that is untenable and where immediate action must be taken to mitigate further harm and violence against BIPOC Oregonians and Tribes.

This issue is not about politics. This issue is about people's lives and their health, and the fact that people are dying far earlier than they should, and that we must do a much better job of preventing that.

Health inequities are preventable issues that when addressed provide significant cost savings not only to health systems, but also to other systems related to the social determinants of health. More importantly, addressing these issues of racism improves the health and quality of life for all Oregonians.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service. I urge you to support H 4052.

Best,
Amanda Nobel Flannery
Eugene