

Submitter: Renee Goin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Health Care
Measure: HB4052

February 1, 2022

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

For the record, my name is Renee Goin. I am an individual in Bend. I am writing to request your support for HB 4052. Racism causes harm, trauma, illness, and death to Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) Oregonians.

With the passage of House Resolution (HR) 6 in the 2021 session, the Legislature has declared racism a public health crisis, but we need to go beyond a declaration and identify and fund specific strategies to begin addressing the crisis. In the 2021 session, the Oregon Health Equity Task Force, composed of leaders and community-based organizations representing BIPOC, Tribal, and Immigrant and Refugee communities, worked with Rep. Salinas and many supporters to attempt to get HB 2337 passed, but in the final days of the session it wasn't possible to move forward funding allocations. However, the House did pass HR 6 declaring racism a public health crisis.

The Oregon Health Equity Task Force worked with Rep. Salinas to come back in the 2022 session to identify and fund two initial strategies through HB 4052 that begin to address both immediate needs of their communities to reduce racial and ethnic health inequities, as well as creating a pathway for future strategies to address structural racism in the future.

Remove barriers to increase access and quality of care in BIPOC communities through culturally and linguistically appropriate mobile health units.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will offer grants to one or more entities to pilot two mobile health units using a culturally and linguistically appropriate model to specifically serve BIPOC communities. Lessons learned from these pilots will be integrated into future plans to assess the feasibility of developing a statewide mobile health unit system, which will be developed by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will explore the feasibility of expansion of a statewide mobile health system through several assessments.

An advisory committee will be convened and staffed by OHA to help guide these plans and ensure a focus on addressing structural racism.

Meaningfully invest in community engagement to identify future strategies through support of statewide affinity groups: This would include funding to support the Oregon

Advocacy Commissions (OACs) in convening BIPOC leaders to recommend future strategies to continue working to address structural racism through policy and systems change, long-term.

Policies and systems in Oregon rooted in white supremacy only ensure health disparities for non white residents. This is one step towards dismantling Oregon's roots in racism to move toward equity so all residents can thrive and contribute to a community where we support each other.

Black and brown people are stopped, searched, arrested, prosecuted, and experience more force and are killed by police at higher rates nationally. (APHA, 2018, Addressing law enforcement violence as a public health issue). Residents who support white supremacy are active all over our state, showing up to schools and community events and threatening anti racism work.

This effort will look like many similar ones out there. Racism didn't happen overnight and with one action and dismantling systematic racism will take many years, multiple legislative concepts, policies, and community pushes.

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

Sincerely,

Renee Goin
Bend, Oregon