

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

My name is Olivia Pineda and I am a MPH student at Oregon State University and an intern with Upstream Public Health. I am writing in support of House Bill 4052.



There is a long standing history of racism and white supremacy in Oregon that exists in our present day. Structural racism is deeply rooted in all institutions, and it has largely resulted in long-term negative impacts for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) within Oregon communities. The poor health outcomes among these communities can be ignored no further. By providing linguistically specific mobile health units to serve priority populations, our system can move in the right direction. People within the BIPOC community have been underserved for decades, perpetuating health disparities. The lack of culturally specific care and care across languages is a huge barrier to accessing care.

Under HB4052, there will be a meaningful investment into the communities across the state. A hallmark of this policy is that those who created it, are those that will directly benefit. Decision makers are listening to those within marginalized communities, which is vital for system improvement. Addressing structural racism will require long-term changes and policy implementations, and this bill is an important step in the right direction to reduce health inequity.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to improving the health of our communities and providing an opportunity to voice our opinions in support for HB4052.

Sincerely,

Olivia Pineda