

House Committee on Business and Labor

Testimony in Support of SB 1565

February 22, 2022

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Bonham & Grayber, and Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor,

For the record, my name is Jackie Leung, Co-Chair of the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs. I am writing to urge you to pass to SB 1565 - Relating to discrimination based on the use of certain types of currency as payment.

1. OCAPIA's role is to work toward economic, social, political, and legal equity for Oregon's Asian and Pacific Islander population. We do this through advocacy, public policy research, leadership development, and partnerships.
2. In our statutory role of bringing equity focus and community voice into Oregon policy making, OCAPIA strongly supports SB 1565.

SB 1565 would ensure that businesses accept cash with certain limited exclusions, which is an important consideration in accommodating the needs of Oregonian residents and visitors to our state. Not all Oregon residents have the ability to create and maintain a bank account for various reasons, as cited by several other supporters of SB 1565, including the bank fees, not

Oregon Commission on
Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Co-Chairs:

Susan Soonkeum Cox
Jacqueline Leung

Vice-Chair:

Toc Soneoulay-Gillespie

Commissioners:

Mohamed Alyajouri
John Iglesias
Neha Subramanyam

Legislative Members:

Senator Michael Dembrow
Representative Khanh Pham

Oregon Advocacy Commissions

Office Staff

Albert Lee, Executive Director
Nancy Kramer, Policy & Research
Dr. Kyl Myers, Public Affairs

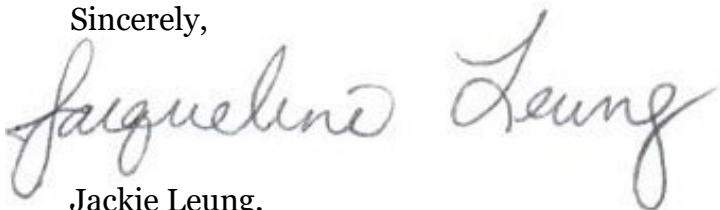


having proper identification, being unsheltered, a prior bankruptcy, or not having enough cash to start up the account.

SB 1565 ensures economic equity - recognizing that not everyone has access to bank accounts, debit, or credit cards - while also requiring vendors to accept U.S. currency (coins and cash). Even though online banking has made it easier to access funds, not everyone has access to the internet, much less own an electronic device capable of letting them check or use their bank account virtually.

We strongly urge you to pass SB 1565, it is not only the right thing to do, it is in the spirit of our state where we support our Oregon residents and visitors without causing additional barriers to eat, live, and enjoy Oregon life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacqueline Leung". The ink is a light grey or blue color.

Jackie Leung,

Co-Chair, Oregon Commission on
Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

