

Co-Chairs Patterson and Smith, and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government,

My name is Melina Moran, I'm a second-generation Latina of Mexican and Irish heritage, born and raised in the Pacific Northwest. I'm also a Family Nurse Practitioner and a Doctoral candidate at Frontier Nursing University, a mother of two very active children, and I serve as the Chair of the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA).

OCHA serves the people of Oregon to empower and support our constituents through our special roles as policy advisors to Oregon state policy makers and leaders. OCHA is a catalyst that empowers partnerships between state government and our community in rural and urban areas to ensure success for all Hispanic and Latino Oregonians by addressing longstanding and emerging issues at the policy level including but not limited to social, political, legal, and economic equity. OCHA has several statutory duties, all of which revolve around advocacy and equity of our seven strategic priorities: Education; jobs and the economy; healthcare; justice, safety, and policing; stable families and housing; environmental justice; and civic engagement.

These statutory duties include:

- Monitoring existing programs and legislation designed to meet the needs of the Hispanic population;
- Meeting at least annually in a joint meeting of the Commission on Hispanic Affairs, the Commission on Black Affairs, the Commission for Women and the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs to consider and act upon issues of mutual importance to the missions and statutory duties of the commissions;
- Encouraging Hispanic representation on state boards and commissions;
- Assisting the Governor on the Governor's equity-focused initiatives with policy advice, the study of long-standing community issues and the provision of community input, a community voice and leadership, as requested;
- Maintaining a liaison between the Hispanic community and government entities;

**Oregon Commission
on Hispanic Affairs**

Chair:

Melina Moran, MSN, APRN

Vice-Chair:

Josefina Riggs

Commissioners:

Jonathan Chavez Baez

Gustavo Morales

Legislative Member:

**Oregon Advocacy Commissions
Office Staff**

Albert Lee, Executive Director


Iyesha Rosser, Policy & Research


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- Identifying and researching problem areas and issues affecting the Hispanic community and recommending actions to the Governor and the Legislative Assembly, including recommendations on legislative programs.

Members of OCHA are appointed by the Governor and are VOLUNTEERS. Most of us have full time jobs, children, care for our loved ones and elders. Being a member of this commission is a passion but needs support to accomplish the tasks above. Currently, we are supported by the Oregon Advocacy Commission Office, but this has only four full time staff to serve the four Commissions it supports, each with 6-17 duties each.

OCHA is asking that you reevaluate the budget and consider the ask for 29 FTE positions, this will assist the commissions to fulfill their duties, give a voice to our population and raise up our community. Our plans for the next biennium include:

- Road Show across the state to meet with CBOs as well as hold listening sessions with communities across the state to help drive our work
- Hire paid interns with backgrounds in our respective Commissions
- Hold events (i.e., Black History Month Proclamation, Women of Achievement Awards, etc.)
- Lunch & Learn events across the state to educate about the history of our state for Black, Hispanic/Latinx, Asian and Pacific Islanders, and for Women
- Partner with CBOs to deliver reports such as the Bias Incidents and Hate Crimes report we did with the DOJ


Thank you for your support of our work to center equity,




Melina Moran



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