



Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Advocating for Equity and Diversity throughout Oregon

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

For the record, my name is Sang “Sam” Tzun Phan. I am currently serving as the Co-Chair of the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA), and I am also a first-generation Mien-American.

OCAPIA works for the implementation and establishment of economic, social, legal, and political equity for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in the state of Oregon and to maintain a continuing assessment of issues and needs confronting Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in this state. OCAPIA has several statutory duties, all of which revolve around advocacy and equity. Today, I am writing to you in support of House Bill 5001.

I was appointed as a Commissioner to OCAPIA by Governor Kate Brown in March of 2022. I have been actively engaged within the Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander communities since I was a child. After joining the Commission, I grew concerned upon learning that a government entity like OACO, which was developed to bring voices from communities of color to the legislative table, hasn’t had adequate funding to support its mission. At this moment, OACO has four full time and three limited-duration staff to support four different commissions across the entire state of Oregon.

While working on the commission, it has been amazing to witness the number of good Samaritans within the BIPOC community that mass media fails to acknowledge on a day-to-day basis. Instead, we are consistently flooded with the case-by-case events of our people that are somehow negatively affecting our communities.

However, through OACO and the work of the commissions, we can see and give voices to those who are trying to make positive changes to their environments and provide them a chance to feel and be empowered by their voices. Every day, we hear about how Oregon is focused on becoming a more inclusive and diverse state, yet we don’t provide the necessary funding to the entities that support communities of color.

I support House Bill 5001 and request the Committee approve a budget for 29 FTE to fully fund and support the work of the four Commissions to complete their various statutory duties, which range from 6 to 17 broad-stroke responsibilities for each Commission.

**Oregon Commission on
Asian and Pacific Islander
Affairs**

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We need to ensure the organizations that support marginalized communities have the resources to do so, and HB 5001 is a step in the right direction, but I implore you to do more, to do better.


I urge the members of the committee to support the passage of HB 5001.




Sang Tzun Phan
Co-Chair, OCAPIA



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