

Submitter: AJ McCreary

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On General
Government

Measure: HB5001

Hello, My name is AJ McCreary and I am the executive director of Equitable Giving Circle which is a Portland based nonprofit in Portland OR. We do food access, housing support and community wellness work. We exclusively serve Black and Brown people and are very intentional with our resources as we know resources move crisis, make communities safer, and stimulate the economy. I am testifying on behalf of OACO today because I know how critical resources are to move work, advocate for our most vulnerable populations, and to support community work and needs.

This budget rolled out by newly elected Tina Kotek is performative and is not prioritizing the needs or work of Black and Brown folks, the lack of resources given to OACO is intentional. Ya'll will happily acknowledge us and talk to be talking but when it comes to dollars to actually move the work, support our communities, or invest in future generations the dollars come up short. Ya'll got all the funds for police and capitalism, but when it comes to communities the dollars always fall short. Which is comical when you said democrats claim you care about the people, righting wrongs or claim to be progressive. If we ere being progressive we would be loudly funding Black and Brown folks, we would loudly aggressively be investing in our education system, and we would be holding corporations accountable.

Back to this budget, OACO is in place to be a liaison and advocate for the marginalized communities how can they do this work without proper funding? They need funds for staffing, programming, marketing/outreach, and more. Considering what Tina campaigned on and considering how Oregon wants to position itself as progressive you actually have to have action items to be these things, you actually have to invest in what you claim to care about. You have to be about action. Please amend this budget and give OACO the funds they need to move this work and be effective. With such. limited budget there will be limited work they can do and those in this room have the power to be on the right side of history and do right by Black and Brown communities and the action today on that mission would be getting OACO the funds they need to be successful and impactful in real time.