



OREGON ACADEMY OF  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS  
**MAKING HEALTH PRIMARY**

March 11, 2025

RE: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care Hearing on HB3650

Chair Nosse and members of House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

The Oregon Academy of Family Physicians is pleased to submit this testimony in support of HB 3650, to create a Task Force on a Latino Health System.

The Latino community represents 16% of Oregon's population, and health equity statistics demonstrate that our current health care system fails too often to provide them with the culturally and linguistically appropriate care they deserve.

A November 2024 report from the National Center for Health Workforce Analysis found that across primary and specialty care physicians, the percentage who identify as Latino is no more than 9.4%; that figure is even lower in Oregon. While we must increase the percentage of clinicians and clinic staff able to provide culturally concordant care, we also must maximize what we can do within our current workforce and infrastructure to improve care for these Oregonians. The Task Force can explore a spectrum of potential solutions to these difficult issues and help the state to prioritize.

Importantly, we urge the intentional inclusion of primary care voices in the resulting Task Force. Oregon has turned to the primary care system to provide the foundation of transformed, patient-centered health care. That complex work has provided an often-rewarding opportunity to focus on upstream interventions that aim to maintain health rather than merely treating illness. Investments in these models of care, however, have been inadequate to support the cost of meeting heightened expectations. Oregon's primary care workforce, from the front desk to the exam room, is regularly pushed to the point of burnout. As work on creating a Latino Health System advances, it will be critical to ensure financing and technical support that meets the needs of our primary care system to provide that care.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,  
Betsy Boyd-Flynn  
Executive Director & CEO  
Oregon Academy of Family Physicians