

Long Kong Tin Yee Association
2745 SE 84th Ave. Portland OR 97266



March 1, 2025

RE: Support Bill HB 3595

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Lung Kong Tin Yee Association has over 100 years in history with branch offices worldwide.

Advocating for Lunar New Year Recognition in Oregon

This year represents a crucial milestone in the effort to recognize Lunar New Year as a state holiday in Oregon. While neighboring states such as California and Washington have already taken this step, Chinese Friendship Association of Portland is collaborating with State Representative Dr. Tran to introduce similar legislation in Oregon, seeking widespread support.

Why Legal Recognition of Lunar New Year Matters Lunar New Year holds deep cultural significance for many communities in Oregon, particularly Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) residents. Establishing it as an official state holiday would acknowledge the cultural heritage of hundreds of thousands of Oregonians, foster inclusivity, and generate economic and social benefits for the state.

Cultural Significance of Lunar New Year For over 150 years, Asian communities have been an integral part of Oregon's history and development. Recognizing Lunar New Year as a state holiday would honor their contributions, promote greater cultural appreciation, and strengthen community ties across the state.

Economic Advantages of Lunar New Year Celebrations Lunar New Year festivities play a vital role in Oregon's economy, driving significant consumer spending and business activity. Official recognition would enhance economic benefits by encouraging broader participation, supporting local businesses, and further integrating the holiday into Oregon's vibrant economic landscape.

Impact on Public Employees and Students Currently, many Oregon families must take personal leave from school or work to observe Lunar New Year. Official recognition would:

- Allow students to participate in cultural traditions without facing academic penalties.
- Support public employees, educators, and workers who celebrate Lunar New Year with their families.
- Align Oregon's holiday calendar with the cultural diversity of its residents, fostering a more inclusive environment.

Conclusion Recognizing Lunar New Year as a state holiday in Oregon is a significant step toward honoring the traditions of the state's diverse communities. It would enhance cultural appreciation, contribute to economic growth, and ensure that families can celebrate without barriers. We strongly support HB 3595 and urge its passage to create a more inclusive and equitable society for all.

Sincerely Yours,

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