



United Service Center for Chinese American Women
Healing • Support • Empowerment
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March 17, 2025

Oregon State House Committee on Rules

Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Support for HB 3595 – Recognizing Lunar New Year as a Paid State Holiday

Dear Chair and Members of the House Committee on Rules,

I am writing on behalf of the United Service Center for Chinese American Women (USC-CAW) to express our strong support for House Bill 3595, which seeks to designate Lunar New Year as a paid state holiday in Oregon.

USC-CAW is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the advancement, opportunities, and quality of life for Chinese American women and children through social, cultural, health, and educational services, as well as advocating for their active participation in American democracy. Our work primarily serves Chinese American women and children in Oregon and Southwest Washington, helping them integrate into and contribute to the broader community.

Lunar New Year is one of the most significant cultural celebrations for many Asian American communities, including Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, and other East and Southeast Asian groups. Recognizing it as a paid state holiday would honor the contributions of these communities, foster greater cultural awareness and inclusivity, and align with Oregon's commitment to diversity and equity, ensuring all communities feel seen and valued.

For our organization, legal recognition of Lunar New Year is particularly meaningful. It would provide Chinese American women and families with the opportunity to fully celebrate their heritage, pass down cultural traditions to younger generations, and actively engage in community events that promote cultural understanding.

We urge the committee to pass HB 3595 and take this important step in recognizing and celebrating Oregon's rich cultural diversity. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Liyan Xiao
President
United Service Center for Chinese American Women (USC-CAW)

