

Chinese Woman Friendship Association of Portland Inc.
16441 SE Silver Creek Falls Dr., Portland, OR 97086

March 5, 2025
RE: Support Bill HB 3595

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Drazen, Vice-Chair Pham, and members of the House Rules Committee,

The Chinese Woman Friendship Association of Portland has been established for more than 6 years; it is composed of a group of professional women and retirees, everyone has common interests and hobbies, organized a dragon dance team, a drum team, and a dance team, actively participated in various community activities and performances, and has become an indispensable new force in the Chinese community activities and cultural events, hoping to continue to carry forward in the future and make greater contributions to our Chinese community!

Advocating for Lunar New Year Recognition in Oregon

This year marks a pivotal moment in the movement to recognize Lunar New Year as a state holiday in Oregon. While neighboring states like California and Washington have already taken this step, CFAP is working closely with State Representative Dr. Tran to introduce similar legislation and garner widespread support.

Why Recognizing Lunar New Year Matters

Lunar New Year holds profound cultural significance for many communities in Oregon, particularly Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) residents. Establishing it as an official state holiday would not only honor the cultural heritage of hundreds of thousands of Oregonians but also foster inclusivity while generating economic and social benefits for the state.

Cultural Significance of Lunar New Year

For over 150 years, Asian communities have been integral to Oregon's history and development. Recognizing Lunar New Year as a state holiday would pay tribute to their contributions, encourage greater cultural appreciation, and strengthen community ties across the state.

Economic Benefits of Lunar New Year Celebrations

Lunar New Year festivities significantly contribute to Oregon's economy, driving consumer spending and stimulating business activity. Official recognition would amplify these economic benefits by encouraging broader participation, supporting local businesses, and integrating the holiday more fully 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 celebrate Lunar New Year. Official recognition would: 1) Allow students to participate in cultural traditions without academic penalties. 2) Support public employees, educators, and workers in celebrating Lunar New Year with their families. 3) Align Oregon's holiday calendar with the state's diverse cultural landscape, fostering a more inclusive environment.

Summary

Recognizing Lunar New Year as a state holiday in Oregon is a meaningful step toward honoring the traditions of the state's diverse communities. This recognition 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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