

Submitter: Dorothy Roholt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3595

While I acknowledge that there are many Asian residents in Oregon, and that the Lunar New Year is a significant holiday to those residents, I do not think it is a holiday that should be set aside as a state holiday. Currently there are 11 legal holidays in Oregon, 8 paid days, when workers do not work, students are not in school, and essential workers must have work schedules altered to cover for important tasks.

Oregon already has a general New Year's Day which all residents can celebrate. If another New Year's Day is added, there could also be a request for other cultures to add their New Year's Day celebrations too, such as Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, one of the oldest New Year's holidays. Perhaps the September 18 Independence Day for the Mexican culture would be requested to be added soon after, and all other cultural holidays that have special meaning to Oregon residents.

Add the state holidays to the already requested days of sick leave, vacation leave, maternity/paternity leave, jury duty, military duty, and it can be hard to find workers consistently present to do the work for the State, the Counties and elsewhere. This may seem to be an exaggerated statement, but if one adds up all the off-work days, it does take away from the efficiency and completion of work expected to be done. We don't need another state holiday. Workers can choose to participate in the Lunar New Year using their vacation and weekend time, as people currently do for their favorite significant days.