

Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Grayber & Lewis, and Members of the Committee,

We strongly support HB 3002, a foundational bill that establishes a Data Modernization Task Force to enhance how Oregon collects, stores, analyzes, and applies granular demographic data. By strengthening data systems, this bill ensures policies are informed by accurate, disaggregated data—helping to address unequal access and disparities tied to social and cultural identity and factors such as place of residence, economic status, and language.

As policymakers address disparities in healthcare, education, youth services, and foster care, reliable and disaggregated data is essential for tracking progress, ensuring accountability, and making informed decisions. HB 3002 is a critical foundation for the success of other legislative initiatives that rely on comprehensive data systems and communication to drive meaningful impact in seemingly homogenous communities facing opportunity gaps and systemic disparities that require visibility.

Why HB 3002 is Critical

Several legislative initiatives rely on accurate, standardized, and transparent data collection to achieve their intended impact. Below are a few bills that highlight their connection to data modernization:

SB 280: Youth Demographic Data Collection by the Oregon Youth Authority	Establishes data tracking in youth rehabilitation programs.
SB 312: Student Data Collection Standards	Ensures uniform demographic data collection in schools to identify opportunity gaps and resource disparities.
HB 2038: Nuclear energy and Waste disposal	Assesses economic growth and workforce development potential for Oregon communities.
HB 2993: Language Access in Healthcare	Tracks patient-provider language needs to ensure healthcare access for non-English speakers.
HB 2995: Task Force on Financial and Nonfinancial Reparations for Oregonians of African American descent	Requires a comprehensive analysis of historical, demographic, economic, health, educational, environmental, housing, and criminal justice disaggregated data to inform financial and nonfinancial reparations.
HB 2609: Demographic Data Collection of Juveniles in the Juvenile Justice System	Identifies social-identity-based disparities in the juvenile justice system to guide reform efforts.
HB 3003: Foster Care Data Reporting	Strengthens DHS data systems to track social-identity-based disparities in foster care placements and permanency outcomes.



Key Benefits of HB 3002

1. **Data-Informed Resource Allocation:** Improved data systems allow state agencies to better identify where resources are most needed and direct them accordingly.
2. **Securing State Data Autonomy:** With new federal policies suspending access to data that is crucial to the provision of essential services throughout the state across sectors (healthcare, education, housing, and more), Oregon must take proactive steps to secure its independent data infrastructure.
3. **Accountability & Transparency:** A comprehensive data infrastructure promotes consistency and communication among state agencies, enabling effective collaboration to address community needs holistically. This transparency ensures accountability and allows policy adjustments to achieve the best outcomes.
4. **Evidence-Based Policy Development and Implementation:** HB 3002 enables policymakers and state agencies to identify hidden opportunity gaps and disparities within seemingly homogenous communities and social-identity-based minority subgroups. It supports the development of policies and the implementation of tailored, data-informed solutions that address the unique needs of these diverse communities.
5. **Data Disaggregation:** Data disaggregation improves accuracy, organization, and accessibility by breaking down information into smaller, more specific categories. This process is particularly beneficial for recognizing and addressing the needs of smaller or underrepresented groups, such as Cambodians, Pacific Islanders, and the Mien community, who are often grouped under broad categories like “Asian” or “Other.” The lack of disaggregated data contributes to the perpetuation of the model minority myth, which falsely assumes that all Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) groups experience universal success in areas like education and income.

This issue extends beyond AAPI communities. Aggregated data obscures disparities among Native American tribes, diverse Black populations (e.g., Afro-Caribbean, African immigrants, Afro-Latinx), and Latin@ and Chican@ communities. Social identity factors, including gender, sexual orientation, and disability, further compound these challenges.

By distinguishing these populations in data collection, policymakers, researchers, and organizations can better understand their unique experiences, challenges, and needs. This leads to more targeted support, resource allocation, and policy decisions that promote equity and representation for all communities.

Supporting and passing HB 3002, Oregonians will lead to evidence-based policymaking that uplifts all communities.

Sincerely,

OCAPIA’s Subcommittee on Data Disaggregation & Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

