

Submitter: Melina Moran

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
General Government

Measure, Appointment or SB5501  
Topic:

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 5501  
Chair, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

I am a member of the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs, but am submitting this testimony on my own behalf in strong support of SB 5501. This bill plays a critical role in advancing equity, opportunity, and well-being for Oregon's Latino/a/x communities. SB 5501 appropriates essential funding for the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office, ensuring the continued work of OCHA and its sister commissions in addressing disparities and promoting equity statewide. The General Fund appropriation and additional expenditure authority provided in this bill are crucial to sustaining the commissions' efforts in policy research, community engagement, and advocacy.

Oregon's Hispanic population continues to grow, contributing significantly to the state's economy and cultural richness. However, persistent disparities in health, education, and economic security remain barriers to full participation and success. SB 5501 ensures that OCHA and the other advocacy commissions have the necessary resources to continue their work in reducing these disparities and informing policy decisions that align with Oregon's commitment to equity. I believe the minimum amount asked for is not enough, the Oregon Advocacy commission has many duties and not enough staff. I would encourage you to consider increasing the amount of dollars allocated in order to fully staff and support the commissions. I urge the committee to support SB 5501 and advance policies that reflect the needs and aspirations of Oregon's Hispanic communities. I appreciate your leadership and consideration on efforts that promote a more just and inclusive Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Melina Moran, DNP

Member and Chair of Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs