

# OPHA Bill HB2337 Info Sheet

## Racism is a Public Health Crisis

### Purpose

- Declare racism as a public health crisis in Oregon.
- Acknowledge Oregon's racist history and its current day impact on policies and systems that perpetuate institutional racism which causes harm, trauma, illness and death to Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) Oregonians, and the need to heal these injustices through accelerated intentional actions.
- Articulate investments and strategies needed to address health inequities among BIPOC Oregonians and Oregon Tribes:

Invest in the following key strategies:

1. The collection of race, ethnicity, language, and disability (REAL-D) data is critical for better understanding population health by systematically measuring more granular level data to reveal the unique inequities faced by specific communities across the state. In turn, this data informs future investments in addressing health inequities to focus efforts specifically where they are needed most and thereby more effectively and efficiently use and save state resources.
  - a. Expands the collection of REAL-D data to all state agencies, subcontractors and vendors as practicable.
  - b. Clarifies representation on advisory committees that informs updates to data collection standards are diverse and include at minimum: BIPOC community members, the nine federally recognized Oregon Tribes (if there is interest in participating), people with disabilities, and people with limited English proficiency.
2. Local public health authorities provide data to Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to develop a statewide mobile health unit plan. These units will focus on providing basic health, behavioral health, oral health, and connection to other wraparound services specifically for BIPOC communities. Mobile unit staff will be culturally and linguistically diverse and reflective of the communities they serve. A pilot program will also be developed in an effort to elicit lessons learned that will inform OHA's statewide plan.
3. Oregon Advocacy Commission staffs population specific affinity groups by race with statewide membership to identify future strategies and investments needed to address institutional racism and health equity. Community involvement will be supported with stipends.
4. Creates an oversight body in Oregon Health Authority to assess language access compliance for all health systems across the state. Technical assistance will be provided to facilitate compliance.
5. Adds staff to the Legislature who will develop racial health equity analysis criteria, analyze all future legislation for health equity considerations, and report findings back to respective committees.
6. Creates an Equity Coordinator for the Legislature to address and coordinate ADA and language accessibility barriers for better public participation in the legislative process. The Equity Coordinator will also form partnerships with diverse communities to develop a needs assessment and program efficacy plan. Community involvement will be supported with stipends. Also allocate resources to support these efforts. Without hearing from people with lived experience, the opportunity to address unintended consequences is lost. We will have more equitable policies, and ultimately more opportunities to address institutional racism when more people have the supports they need to be able to participate in the legislative process. Better policies supporting the health of all people will equate to increased health and wellness in communities when negative consequences are addressed prior to becoming law.

[OARs 943-070-0000 thru 943-070-007](#): These Oregon Administrative Rules establish uniform standards and practices for the collection of data on race, ethnicity, preferred spoken or signed and preferred written language, and disability status by the Oregon Health Authority and DHS.

For questions, please contact: Nathaniel Boehme [nathaniel.boehme.opha@gmail.com](mailto:nathaniel.boehme.opha@gmail.com)  
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# Racism is a Public Health Crisis (HB 2337)

## Individual Endorsements

Leslie Gregory  
Amy Fellows  
Jeni Canaday  
Stick Crosby  
Danielle Droppers  
Ryan Bair  
Dane Zahner  
Charlie Bauer  
Adrianna Rickard  
Tammy Tate-Houdroge  
John Mullin  
Amanda Morris  
Jennifer A. Fraga, MSW  
Tiffany Conklin  
Zachary Hathaway  
Michelle D. Jones, Ph.D.  
Anton Legoo  
Tamara Falls  
Emilie Lamson-Siu  
Lillie Marvel  
Sophia Bass  
Roberta Rita Eaglehorse-Ortiz  
Abby Mulcahy  
Katie Riley  
Kim La Croix  
Ashley Vaughn  
Chad Mann  
Sarah Dys  
Renee' Menkens  
Conor Foley  
Allison E. Myers, PhD, MPH  
F. Javier Nieto  
Suzanne Lady  
Malika Edden Hill  
Taylor Munro  
Ayni Amir  
May Low  
Aundreen R Mitchell  
Nikotris Perkins  
Ayasha Shamsud-Din, MSEd, QMHP  
Denise V Johnson  
Martha Kaeser  
Jacob Peel  
Nekicia Luckett  
Travis Nelson  
Sam Engel  
Kevin Sullivan  
Javelin Hardy  
Araceli Mendez  
Lee Helfend  
Stephanie Brown, RN  
Anthony Fischer  
Mike Gardner  
Ana Hristic  
Margarett Peoples  
Catherine Thomasson, MD  
Michael Cococar  
Jaylyn Suppah  
Annie Naranjo-Rivera  
Ellie Smith  
Seth Cannon  
Rich Rohde  
Seemab Hussaini  
Amy Harboldt  
Katherine Lattimer, RN, BSN, Student PMHNP  
Cara Koch  
Laura Nissen  
Samuel Gioia  
Sally Mudiarnu  
Beckie Child, MSW  
sheila c mullooly  
Isaac Dixon, PhD.  
Anna Rockhill  
Victoria Lopez, LCSW  
Tamela Ressler  
Alejandro Segura  
Jessica Riutzel-Schmidt  
Kari Goin  
Danielle Phillips  
Sarah Mercurio  
Brandalyn Sprinkle  
Michelle Lewis  
Gina A Turner  
Ann Matschiner  
Celeste Seibel  
David A. Nardone  
Leslie Garcia  
Karen Christianson  
Edith Orner  
Jennifer M Perry  
Michelle Glass  
Juan Franco  
Nathaniel Boehme (he/him/his)  
Linnaea Arnett  
Haley Beach  
Kristine Ly  
Bridget Wells  
Cassandra Smith  
Kendra Fewell-Hartling  
Stacy L Feder  
Eileen J Sieva  
Uchendu Iwuanyanwu  
Marjorie Edwards, SPT  
Margaret Moore  
Erica Popple  
Amy Joslin  
Emily Q  
Glendora Claybrooks

Vickie M Larson-Hills  
Michelle Field, CSWA MSW  
Mitch Haas  
Brandace Rojo  
Michelle Harris  
Kerri Paasche  
Jaime Wood  
Robin Will  
Cordella Hopson  
Jodeanne Bellant Scheer MD  
Colin Sanders  
Mike Yoshioka  
Renee' Menkens  
Maria Cahill  
Danny Ryel  
Sahar Yarjani Muranovic  
Libby Kokes  
Rebekah Bally-Larkin  
Marisa Miller  
Kristoffer Aas  
Laura Jensen  
Jackie Leung  
Jenna Sather-Hubbard  
Tyler TerMeer, PhD  
Allison Poebler  
Beth Crane  
Melyn Smith  
Daniel Altamirano Hernandez  
Cameron Kokes  
Cleophas Chambliss  
Tabitha Jensen  
Adam Peterson  
Sally Snyder  
Megan Fehrman  
Carrie Furrer  
Lea Ann Holder  
Alexander Vasquez  
Angel Harris, RN, BSN  
Amy Black  
Amanda Wall  
Nick Sauvie  
AlexAnn Westlake CNM  
Megan Ludeña, MN, RNC-OB, NPD-BC  
Danyia Hall  
Kylan de Vries  
Brent Balog  
Cathryn Cushing  
Ellen Recko  
Beth Poteet, MSW  
Matthew Plies  
Beth Sanders (she/hers)  
John Munson  
Stella Holmes-Wood  
Willie Poinsette  
Nancy Yuill  
Maurice Phillips  
Laura Alexander, LCSW, MPH  
Ian Morton  
Betsy L. Zucker  
Julie Flindt  
Pamela Case  
Sarah Kowaleski  
Patrick McDonald  
Linda Milligan  
Caroline Bleckmann, LCSW  
Mary Stebbins  
Deborah Sposito  
Allison Hobgood  
Natalia Davy  
Catherine Potter  
Mary Barbee  
Natalie Finkel  
Laurie Trieger  
Christopher Boehme  
Carol Salter  
Penny L Moore  
Janet Hamada  
Tom Sincic  
Katie Riley  
Jackie Murphy  
Lara Ravitch  
Diana Rohlman  
Christina Cendejas  
Stewart Decker  
West Livaudais  
Abby Welter  
Elaine Huynh  
Willow Murdock  
Amy Zlot  
Charlene McGee  
Jana Peterson-Besse  
Jenn Latu  
Janet Hamilton  
Callie Lambarth  
Gainell Irving  
Angela Senders  
Ray Atkinson  
Andrea Kaplowe  
Kevin Truong  
Kathryn Menninger  
Conchita Lovato  
Lillian Tsai  
Jackie Leung  
Renee Stringham MD  
Miranda Stienkopf  
Julie Titus  
Billie Travelstead  
David Chatfield

Glendora Claybrooks  
Sandi Thompson-Royer  
Barb Prentice  
Kim Summerhays  
Jennifer Griffith-Weprin  
Ken Rosenberg  
Alison (Reta) Toshima  
Marvin Lynn  
Rev. Diana F. Scholl  
Angeline Palmer  
Carter Latendresse  
Morgan Schafer  
Anna Steeves-Reece  
Gwen Jones  
Cordelia Schimpf  
Lindsey M. Stalling  
Jordan Gemelas  
Laura Chisholm, MPH PhD  
Rose Selko  
Karen Madden  
Ileana Dorn  
Susann Finnegan  
Elena Esquivel  
Donna Mills  
Sandra Bean  
Juan Franco  
Kelly Campbell  
Beth Poteet  
Amity Calvin  
Michael Recht  
Tina Castañares  
Andrea Hildebrand  
Natalia Polensek  
Emily Elman  
Eugene Uphoff, M.D.  
Megan Glines  
Michael Garland  
Michelle Inness  
Harry Kershner  
Daniel Shea  
Susan Heath  
Robert Lowe  
Deonza Watson  
Eleanor D  
Forrest Rioux  
Sarah Butler  
Tonya Johnson  
Lauren Kraemer  
Kylie Sprague  
Elizabeth (Liz) James  
Laurie Johnson  
Jenna Harms  
Mary Murphy  
JJ Hannigan  
Andrea Salinas  
Anna Williams  
Barbara Smith Warner  
Bill Post  
Bobby Levy  
Boomer Wright  
Brad Witt  
Brian Clem  
Cedric Hayden  
Christine Drazan  
Courtney Neron  
Dacia Grayber  
Daniel Bonham  
Dan Rayfield  
David Brock Smith  
David Gomberg  
Diego Hernandez  
Duane Stark  
E. Werner Reshke  
Gary Leif  
Greg Smith  
Jack Zika  
Jami Cate  
Janeen Sollman  
Janelle Bynum  
Jason Kropf  
Jeff Reardon  
John Lively  
Julie Fahey  
Karin Power  
Ken Helm  
Khanh Pham  
Kim Wallan  
Lily Morgan  
Lisa Reynolds  
Mark Meek  
Mark Owens  
Marty Wilde  
Maxine Dexter  
Mike Nearman  
Nancy Nathanson  
Pam Marsh  
Paul Evans  
Paul Holvey  
Rachel Prusak  
Raquel Moore-Green  
Ricki Ruiz  
Rick Lewis  
Rob Nosse  
Ron Noble  
Shelly Boshart Davis  
Sheri Schouten  
Susan McLain  
Suzanne Weber

Tawna Sanchez  
Teresa Alonso Leon  
Vikki Breese-Iverson  
Winsvey Campos  
Zach Hudson  
Peter Courtney  
Chris Gorsek  
Art Robinson  
Betsy Johnson  
Bill Hansell  
Chuck Riley  
Chuck Thomsen  
Deb Patterson  
Dennis Linthicum  
Dick Anderson  
Elizabeth Steiner Hayward  
Floyd Prozanski  
Fred Girod  
Ginny Burdick  
James Manning  
Miguel G MOSELER  
Isabella Gomez  
Nina-Marie Dahl  
Daneica Muraoka  
Daneica Muraoka  
Anna Kim  
Shela Beebe  
Alexis Gonsalves  
alex kerstetter  
Jodelle Marx  
Piper Neal  
Beah Marie Marzan  
Jennifer Bass  
Danielle Cordima  
Joan Song  
Solana Kim  
Aine Hoban  
Claire DuPont  
Sadie Green  
Nacho Ruiz  
Chloe Richman  
Marli Messner  
Katie McGinnigle  
Arian Papakee  
Mia Smith  
Saylora Wieche  
Daneica-Rose Muraoka  
Betty Holladay  
Bailey Hoshino  
Ivonne Rivero  
Heather Dorfman  
Renee Wirth  
Prim Prasertsri  
Constance Dillinger  
Brian Johnson  
JJ Hannigan

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## Organizational Endorsements

