



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

## Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

"Advocating Equality and Diversity"

1819 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97201

O 503.302.9725

Email: [oaco.mail@state.or.us](mailto:oaco.mail@state.or.us)

[Ocha.chair@gmail.com](mailto:Ocha.chair@gmail.com)

Website: [www.oregon.gov/Hispanic](http://www.oregon.gov/Hispanic)

Testimony in support of HB 3407

Friday, April 5, 2013

House Committee on Health Care

Chair Greenlick, Vice Chairs Keny-Guyer and Thompson,  
and Representatives Clem, Conger, Harker, Kennemer, Lively,  
and Weidner:

The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA) is submitting  
testimony in support of HB 3407 establishing a Commission on  
Traditional Health Care Workers within OHA.

Addressing disparities in access to effective health care for communities of  
color is a strategic priority of the OCHA. This includes the  
overrepresentation of communities of color and women in health issues  
including diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure, and the  
underrepresentation of these communities in health screening, pre-natal  
care and other areas. Traditional Health Workers have been shown to be  
effective in communities where they are trusted members who bridge  
linguistic and cultural barriers. They assure that outreach, health  
education, and navigating the health system are tailored to the needs and  
goals of those they serve, and advocate for them as individual move ahead  
to access care.

Creating a Commission of Traditional Health Workers is an important step  
in assuring that these skilled and valued workers are supported in their  
professional development and have the tools and standing to help craft the  
policies that guide and evaluate their profession. Oregon is depending on  
Traditional Health Workers to help meet a number of key goals and outcomes in its health care  
transformation that cut across age, gender, race and cultural groups. We believe that formalizing a  
Commission from the foundation built by the Non-Traditional Health Workers Committee is the  
right idea and that housing it within OHA will give this needed Commission every advantage for  
support by top professionals in the field.

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions urge the Committee members to positively consider this  
important next step and support it with your vote.

Sincerely,

Andrea Cano, Chair

### Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

**Chair:**

Andrea Cano

**Vice Chair:**

Gilbert P. Carrasco

**Commissioners:**

Cynthia Gomez

John Haroldson

Lupita Maurer

Alberto Moreno

Judith Parker

Carlos Perez

Santiago Ventura

**Legislative Liaisons:**

Sen. Chip Shields

Rep. Chris Harker

**Staff:**

Lucy Baker, Administrator

Nancy Kramer, Exec. Asst.