



To:

House Committee on Health Care
hhc.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

April 3, 2019

Dear Chair Salinas, Vice-Chair Hayden, Vice-Chair Nosse, and Members of the House Health Care Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) to express our **support for House Bill 2011**, to establish cultural competency as a standard and an educational requirement. We are a statewide, grassroots organization, uniting Asians and Pacific Islanders to achieve social justice. We believe that *all* our families deserve the rights, recognition and resources they need to thrive, and fight for the health and well-being of our communities.

Back in 2013, we worked in coalition to advance cultural competency standards and education through HB 2611, working collaboratively with experts, providers and regulatory boards in order to improve the way our health system delivers care. When health professionals lack important information or understanding of the health of a patient, we all pay for it. Ineffective patient communication lead to misdiagnosis, incorrect treatment, and drive health inequities. Emerging disaggregated health data for Asians and Pacific Islanders, who represent over 40 ethnicities and 100 language groups in Oregon alone, are generating critical information for prevention and treatment. "Model Minority" stereotypes trivialize health disparities and create barriers for our community, leading to poor health outcomes. Doctors want the best information in order to care for their patients, and patients have to be able to understand their doctors across cultural and linguistic differences.

We believe that cultural competency will help bridge the cultural and linguistic gaps, leading to higher rates of access to preventive services, increased patient satisfaction, patient adherence to provider's recommendations, as well as decreased provider liability and improved overall health outcomes. Cultural competency improves the foundation of our health care delivery system, positioning our workforce to work effectively with a changing and globalizing Oregon.

Everyday, Oregon becomes more diverse. Our healthcare system is changing as fast as the demographics in our state. We need HB 2011 to ensure our health care providers are interacting effectively with people of different backgrounds and cultures. We must invest in every opportunity to ensure providers have every tool available to bridge experiences and support culturally and linguistically appropriate care. We proudly supported cultural competency



back in 2013, and we proudly support it now. We urge the House Health Care Committee to vote in support of HB 2011.

Sincerely,
Ivy Major-McDowall
Legislative Coordinator
APANO