



VOICES UNITED.
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June 24, 2021

House Committee on Rules
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HR 6

Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chair Drazen, Vice-Chair Holvey, and
Members of the Committee,

Our Children Oregon's (OCO) mission is to be a voice and force for the common good for all Oregon children, ensuring all children have the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential. We develop The Children's Agenda with our partners, a legislative agenda championing equitable state legislative policies and shared investments to improve the lives of Oregon's children and their families.

Declaring racism as a public health crisis is a 2021 Children's Agenda priority. We support HR 6 to acknowledge Oregon's racist history and its current policies that perpetuate systemic racism that cause harm toward Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) Oregonians. To heal past and present injustices, Oregon needs to address the damaging impact of racist policies through strong and intentional actions, and this declaration is an important part of that process.

The COVID-19 pandemic has nationally exacerbated health inequities. Due to institutionalized racist systems, chronic diseases are more prevalent in BIPOC communities. COVID-19 has put BIPOC individuals with underlying health conditions at greater risk to contract the virus and experience severe symptoms. Yet, BIPOC communities are still more likely to face economic, geographical, and linguistic barriers to access quality and culturally competent care. HR 6 acknowledges this truth, and will require future intentional actions to enact systemic changes to create more equitable communities and outcomes.

Thank you for your consideration and your service. We urge you to support HR 6.

On behalf of the Our Children Oregon Team,

Chis Coughlin, Policy, Advocacy, and Engagement Director

View the 2021 Children's Agenda at www.ourchildrenoregon.org/2021-childrens-agenda

The Children's Agenda

is a broad slate of equitable investments and policy solutions to meet the holistic needs of Oregon children, youth, and their families.



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