Oregon Legislative Activity of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions: OCAPIA, OCBA, OCHA and OCFW

2016 Short Session Summary

INTRO
The 78th Oregon Legislative Assembly convened for its short session on February 2nd 2016. The session ended after a very active legislative assembly for a short session on March 3rd of 2016.

For the first time in Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office history staffing included a .5 FTE Policy Analyst dedicated to supporting Advocacy Commission policy advocacy and research. The commissioners worked closely with the new policy analyst, administrator and the executive assistant to stay engaged in legislative policy and collaborate between Commissions throughout the short legislative session.

The Commissions, including Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Affairs (OCAPIA), Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA), Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA), and the Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW), determined priority equity-related bills for the 2016 legislative session. Together they tracked bill progress through regular updates from the Policy Analyst, wrote and delivered testimony, participated in weekly legislative briefings, and participated in joint legislative days with the Commissions’ community partners.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016 SHORT SESSION

- The OAC Commissioners submitted testimony for 14 legislative bills (up from 10 bills in 2014 session). Of these, 4 were invited testimonies delivered in person before legislative committees.
- Commissioners attending 13 meetings with legislators or legislative aids on Commission priorities.
- Nine commissioners participated in legislative lobby days with community partners, meeting with Senate and House leadership and individual legislators.
- Five priority bills were supported jointly by the 4 Advocacy Commissions.
- OCHA and OCAPIA Commissioners served on the Legislative Taskforce on Immigration Consultant Fraud (HB 3525) which resulted in the legislative bill HB 4128. [link]
- The commissions supported two environmental justice bills in the 2016 session.
OAC Testimony on Individual Bills

OAC Supported Bills 2016
2016 PRIORITY BILLS

Civic Engagement

✓ HB 4009, Minoru Yasui Day (OCAPIA) – Passed February 24, 2016. [Testimony]

Education

✓ SB 1564, English Language Learner Granular Data, (OCAPIA) – Passed February 24th, 2016. [Testimony]
✓ HB 4033, Educators’ Equity Act, (OCBA) – Passed February 19th, 2016. [Testimony]

Health

✓ SB 1574, Healthy Climate Bill, (OCFW) – Did not pass. [Testimony]
✓ HB 4017, Basic Health Plan, (OCAPIA/OCBA/OCHA) – Passed March 2nd, 2016. [Testimony]
✓ HB 4036, Senate version of bill SB 1547 Clean Energy bill (OCBA/OCAPIA/OCHA/OCFW) – Passed on March 2nd, 2016. [Testimony]

Jobs and Economy

✓ [Testimony] Raising the minimum wage for Oregon's working class women and women of color (OCBA/OCFW) – SB 1532, Passed February 18th, 2016.

Justice, Safety and Policing

✓ SB 1571, Testing of sexual assault evidence kits, (OCFW) – Passed March 2nd, 2016. [Testimony]
✓ HB 4003, Extend Law Enforcement Profiling Workgroup, (OCBA) – Passed February 19th, 2016 [Testimony]
✓ HB 4123, Relief from court fees, (OCBA) – Did not pass. [Testimony]
✓ HB 4128, Immigration consultant Fraud (OCAPIA/OCBA/OCHA/OCFW) – Passed February 25th, 2016. [Testimony] + [Floor Letter]

Housing and Stable Families

✓ HB 4001, Tenant Protections, (OCBA). [Testimony]
✓ HB 4143, Tenant Protection, (OCFW) – Passed March 2nd, 2016. [Testimony]
Emerging Issues:

- SB 1559, Tobacco retail licensure – Did not pass.
- SB 1574, Healthy climate bill (Cap and Invest) – Did not pass.
- HB 4031, Coordinated Student Success Act of 2016 – Did not pass.
- HB 4123, Reducing court fees bill – Did not pass.

Other bills:

- SB 1515 and HB 4080, To improve the quality of care for foster kids – Passed.
- SB 1587, Wage theft protection – Passed.
- SB 1600, Remove the statute of limitations on certain sex crimes – Passed.
- HB 4002, Aims to reduce absenteeism through a statewide plan – Passed.
- HB 4042, $1.7 million for homeless, people with disabilities – Passed.
- HB 4057, Targets interventions for students in poverty – Passed.
- HB 4082, Criminalizes promoters of prostitution and sex traffickers who exploit victims – Passed.
- HB 4110, Earned Income Tax Credit increased from 8% to 11% for families – Passed.
- HB 4147, Will close the “Charleston loophole” in gun background checks – Did not pass.

Legislative Lobby Days with Community Partners

- OCBA - Urban League of Portland Our Voices United Legislative day February 24th 2016.
- OCHA - Coalition of Communities of Color and Western States Center Racial Equity Lobby day January 14th 2016.
- OCFW - American Association University Women Lobby day February 10th 2016.

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