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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FACING RACE: 2013 LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD ON RACIAL EQUITY EXAMINES 21 PIECES OF LEGISLATION introduced during the regular session that have the most direct impacts on communities of color in Oregon. Of these 21 pieces of legislation, 18 were passed into law. Grades were given to each member of the legislature based on their votes on those bills and their leadership record. This report also looks at ways in which the state budget impacts communities of color.

Facing Race addresses racial equity related to five major areas: civil rights and criminal justice, economic justice, education, health, and immigrant and refugee issues. This report also has a special section dedicated to considering the impacts of the state budget on communities of color. Bills featured in the report include:

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2013 was a productive and successful legislative session. Most of the bills that communities of color and allies advocated for passed. This can be attributed to an increased presence at the Capitol by these groups as well as strategic coalitions and bipartisan support from legislators. Governor John Kitzhaber was also engaged and provided key leadership on important legislation. Each member of the Oregon House and Senate was given an individual grade based on both their votes and their lead sponsorship on these bills. Out of 30 senators, there were 14 A’s, 2 B’s, 3 C’s and 11 Needs Improvements. Out of 60 Representatives, there were 28 A’s, 8 B’s, 3 C’s and 21 Needs Improvements.

Overall, there was a lot of progress made toward passing bills that address racial disparities in Oregon. More positive progress toward addressing racial disparities will move the entire state forward. All of our communities share a linked fate, and in order to build a fair society with full prosperity and social harmony, lawmakers should consider the following recommendations:

• **BE EXPLICIT ABOUT ADDRESSING RACIAL EQUITY.** Persistent racial disparities exist in Oregon, and at the same time the demographics are changing and the state is becoming more racially diverse. In order to advance positive policy solutions that address these disparities, lawmakers need to be explicit in addressing racial equity while finding policy solutions. This report contains several examples of proactive racial equity policies that were passed during the 2013 legislative session.

• **IMPLEMENT RACIAL IMPACT STATEMENTS.** Racial Impact Statements estimate the disparate racial impacts of public policies and are a useful tool for legislators to take into account the real consequences that proposed legislation could have on communities of color. Legislation may appear to be race neutral, but that does not mean that its effects are race neutral. The Racial Impact Statement bill that passed this session (p. 8) is a great example of applying the tool in the area of criminal justice and child welfare policies, yet these impact statements can be applied in all areas of public policy.

• **DISAGGREGATE UNIFORM AND COMMUNITY-SPECIFIC DATA FOR ALL RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS.** While some progress was made with the passage of HB 2134 in improving data collection in health and human services (p. 20), there are still clear data gaps in how state, county and local governments collect and report race and ethnicity. Many ethnic groups have very specific needs and experiences, and when we lump them into large diverse racial categories, the data governmental agencies collect can lead to misleading policy analysis and bad decision-making. In order to have a better understanding of the outcomes of all Oregonians, improved racial and ethnic data collection and disaggregation must be a part of how Oregon does business.

• **WORK WITH AFFECTED COMMUNITIES.** Organizations representing communities of color are working hard to increase their presence at the Capitol and their engagement with the legislative process. While they do not always have paid lobbyists, they do bring constituents to Salem. Lawmakers should consider bringing bills forward with support from communities that are directly affected.
FACING RACE: 2013 OREGON LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD ON RACIAL EQUITY IS THE SECOND MULTI-ISSUE ASSESSMENT of the legislature’s commitment to creating policies that expand opportunity and racial equity in our state. While this report tells the story of policies that broaden our social well-being, budget decisions are also central to the progress and prosperity of our communities. Given this, a new feature of this report examines the equity impact of budget decisions on Oregonians and specifically Oregonians of color. Policies that address economic, political, social and health disparities for racially marginalized groups are especially important in a state such as Oregon, which has a long history of racist policies contributing to significant racial disparities. The Oregon legislature has the vitally important duty to craft and pass policy that corrects racial injustices and creates an environment in which all Oregonians can thrive. This responsibility is ever more pressing as Oregon’s population becomes more racially diverse.

Stark economic and racial disparities are rooted in complex systems and structures, and directly related to Oregon’s history of institutional racism. That is, policies were created that held a positive impact for Whites while negatively impacting Oregonians of color and Native American tribes.

- In 1850, the U.S. Congress passed the Oregon Donation Land Act, a piece of legislation designed to promote White settlement in the Oregon Territory by expropriating Native America land and giving it to Whites for free, causing a population boom of White settlers of 300 percent. The move to Oregon for many White settlers was motivated by a desire to create an all-White society free from the racial tensions brewing before the start of the American Civil War. The first steps taken to create this all-White society involved bloody battles against Native American peoples and their eventual compulsory removal from their land.

- Laws were specifically targeted at African Americans and designed to exclude them from the state. The Champoeg territorial government of 1843 prohibited slavery and required that all Blacks leave the territory within three years.

- Since 1910, Latinos have been contracted for farm work. By 1970, 95 percent of farm workers in Oregon were from Mexico or of Mexican descent. These laborers have consistently experienced exploitation, low wages, unsafe working conditions, substandard housing and the threat of deportation.

- During the 1860s, Chinese workers were contracted for mining and railroad construction, being paid significantly less than White workers. In 1888, 34 Chinese gold miners were massacred in Enterprise, Oregon. The three White men tried for the crime were acquitted by a legal system designed to protect the interests of Whites.

- In the midst of World War II, more than 4,500 Japanese Americans, two-thirds of whom had American citizenship status, were sent to internment camps. When they were released and allowed to return home, they were given few protections against looters and vandals, and many suffered significant property losses.
Our history shapes our present. Although systemic discrimination may be more subtle now and even unintentional, communities of color are still being hurt by certain public policy decisions. The disparities that are present today are evidence of this:

- Whites are far less likely to face poverty than communities of color in Oregon. In 2012, the poverty rate for Whites was only 15 percent, but 30 percent for Latinos, 34 percent for Native Americans and Alaska Natives, 36 percent for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders and 41 percent for African Americans.⁶
- As for public education, in Multnomah County, just 7 percent of White students do not graduate from high school compared to 30 percent of students of color.⁷
- In Oregon’s placement of children in foster care, Native American youth are more than five times as likely to be placed into foster care; African American youth are four times as likely, and Pacific Islanders are twice as likely to white youth.⁸

When these disparities grow, this cuts into our state’s overall health and well-being. But when the indicators of well-being reflect a more economically and racially equitable and inclusive society, everyone benefits because Oregonians have a shared fate.

Oregon’s population is increasingly diverse—more multiracial, multicultural and multilingual. From 1990 to 2012, Oregonians of color have increased from just 9.2 percent of the state’s population to 22.4 percent.
The changing population and stark disparities demand that we pay attention to how we are making decisions. The policy and budget decisions that we make today can either increase opportunity and improve outcomes across race, gender and class lines or worsen disparities. Addressing racial disparities does not have to seem like some puzzle or mystery to be solved. Solutions do exist. In fact, all of the legislation described in this report is part of the solution.

*Facing Race: 2013 Oregon Legislative Report Card on Racial Equity* is a tool that shines a light on the ways in which lawmakers made gains in promoting our health and well-being and where there are areas for improvement.

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### Terms and Terminology

Throughout the report, we use the terms people of color and communities of color. By this we mean communities that share the common experience of being targeted and oppressed by racism. We also use the term immigrants and refugees, and in this context we are referring to immigrants and refugees of color. We use the terms Black, Latino, Asian Pacific Islander, Native American and White throughout the report.

Where data is available for specific ethnic groups within broader racial categories, we have made an effort to utilize this data and cite it appropriately. In addition, we have extensively endnoted and cited sources so interested persons can look directly at the sources for any clarification needed about the data and terms used in specific citations and graphs.
KEY FINDINGS

1. In our previous report on the 2011 legislative session, we included 23 pieces of proposed legislation and 10 bills that passed into law. This year we included 21 bills, 18 of which were passed into law. This is a marked improvement in passing laws that address racial disparities in Oregon.

2. Improvements in passing legislation can be attributed to lawmakers’ willingness to work directly with impacted communities, the increased presence of organizations representing communities of color at the Capitol, strategic coalition work and strong bi-partisan support for key legislation.

3. Legislative champions for racial equity represent a range of regions, political ideologies and constituencies in our state. Supporters of racial equity legislation in Oregon include rural and urban districts, Democrats and Republicans. The most racially diverse areas in our state continue to be in some of our most rural counties – Malheur, Umatilla, Morrow, Jefferson, Marion and Hood River.

4. Despite the success of many priority pieces of racial equity legislation, there remains important work to do. There were three bills that were missed opportunities, which will be taken up in the 2015 session, while recently passed legislation can be strengthened and improved upon. There are many additional good policy ideas that need to be developed and implemented to address continued disparities for communities of color in health, education, economic opportunity and other areas.

What is Racial Equity?

Proactive racial equity policies seek to eliminate racial disparities and advance equitable outcomes for all communities. Policy that supports racial equity targets the institutional and structural barriers that lead to poor outcomes for communities of color. Race-neutral or color blind policies, whether intentional or not, can widen existing or cause new racial inequities.
CIVIL RIGHTS & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

THE OBSESSION WITH “TOUGH ON CRIME” POLICIES RATHER THAN “SMART ON CRIME” approaches within our criminal justice system has brought uneven pain and results. The criminal justice infrastructure continues to consume an ever increasing percentage of the state budget during a time of economic hardship and fiscal cutbacks. This comes at the expense of actually reducing crime, funding effective interventions and strengthening the safety of communities, particularly for Oregonians of color, who consistently experience a high risk of being a target of crime and violence. What is more, the growing criminal justice infrastructure neglects the stark disparity in incarceration rates that exists. Despite research showing that there is no meaningful difference among racial groups in regard to their likelihood to commit a crime, African American people are over five times more likely to be incarcerated in Oregon’s state prison system than White people.

During the 2013 legislative session, the legislature did make gains by passing a corrections reform package and a racial impact statement bill. However, there is still much work to be done. Our hope is that in future sessions the legislature will also address some of the lingering effects of Measure 11, including the criminalization of youth and the policies of sending youth into the adult criminal justice system.

**LEGISLATION PASSED DURING THE 2013 SESSION**

**SB 123 Foster Care Bill of Rights**

There previously has been no mechanism by which to inform foster youth of their rights or to inform foster parents of their responsibilities in upholding those rights, and no clear recourse for youth when their rights are violated. With the creation of SB 123, youth in foster care will know the rights to which they are entitled and will have a clear process by which to issue complaints if those rights are denied them. Senate Bill 123 mandates the establishment of a Foster Youth Bill of Rights to be distributed to every youth in foster care. This information will be given to all youth in foster care within 60 days of the date of any placement change and will also be posted in foster homes and group homes. SB 123 also creates a position at the Governor’s Advocacy Office for a Foster Care Ombudsmen—a position focused entirely on the challenges of children involved in the foster care system.

Access to rights in foster care is significant for youth, particularly youth of color, who are in the child welfare system. In 2011, youth of color represented nearly one-third (30.1 percent) of youth in foster care in Oregon. Not only are certain groups of youth of color more likely to enter foster care in the first place, but they are also more likely to remain in care for longer periods of time. Knowing their rights and having access to a safe grievance process is extremely important for guaranteeing the safety and development of children.
SB 463 Reducing Disparities through Racial Impact Statements

Racial Impact Statements are a tool developed to estimate the disparate impacts of proposed bills on different racial groups with a view toward removing disparities.\(^\text{12}\) They work in a way similar to fiscal or environmental impact statements that describe the budgetary and ecological effects of policies.

SB 463 (Racial Impact Statements on Proposed Criminal Justice and Child Welfare Policies) designates the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to issue racial impact statements when requested by a legislator from both major political parties.\(^\text{13}\) The Commission is tasked with creating Racial Impact Statements for criminal justice and child welfare related bills. Additionally, this law stipulates that state agencies awarding grants must obtain from all grant applicants a Racial Impact Statement describing any unique impact the proposed program would have on racial and ethnic minorities, as well as women and people with disabilities.\(^\text{14}\) With African Americans more than five times as likely as White people to end up in Oregon’s prison system,\(^\text{15}\) this highlights one area where Racial Impact Statements could have a profound effect on the state’s criminal justice pipeline.

In 2008, Iowa and Connecticut became the first and second states, respectively, in the country to require lawmakers to weigh the racial impact of sentencing laws on racial and ethnic groups, with respect to crime, parole and probation. During the 2013 session, Oregon became the third state to enact such legislation. Creating Racial Impact Statements was one of three overarching recommendations in the first *Facing Race* report released in 2012.

HB 3194 Investing in Justice Reform

HB 3194, an omnibus bill, includes a number of policies to reduce Oregon’s over-reliance on incarceration as the primary approach to public safety. This law reflects the central notion that expanding Oregon’s prison system is not the most cost effective way to address and prevent crime. Included in this bill are a number of evidence-based policies that reduce sentences for less serious offenders, increase access to diversion programs such as drug courts, and create incentives within the justice system that promote rehabilitation and reduce recidivism.\(^\text{16}\) Fiscally, the law is projected to flat-line prison growth over the next five years and save close to $300 million over the next decade.

Flat-lining prison growth allows for significant investments in the types of programs designed to build safe and healthy communities. The investments directly tied to HB 3194 include: doubling the size of the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund, the only dedicated state funding for community-based victim services, and creating a Justice Reinvestment County Grant Program to invest in community programs that reduce crime, recidivism and counties’ reliance on sending people to the state prison system. The kinds of programs likely to be funded will include re-entry programs, addiction treatment, mental health programs, drug courts, victim services and increased police training by establishing Oregon’s Center for Policing Excellence.
SB 560 Racial Profiling

In Oregon, law enforcement officers are more likely to conduct discretionary searches of African Americans and Latinos, despite the fact that these racially motivated searches are less likely to produce evidence of a crime.\(^\text{17}\) As a result, communities of color who experience racial profiling have lower levels of trust in criminal justice and policing systems and are less likely to report crimes committed against them.\(^\text{18}\)

SB 560 would have created stronger accountability tools to fight profiling when it happens. Modeled after legislation enacted in New Mexico in 2009\(^\text{19}\), SB 560 would have banned profiling on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, age, sexual orientation, physical or intellectual disability, serious medical condition, income, language, political affiliation or religion.\(^\text{20}\) It would have required that law enforcement agencies at the local, county and state level train their officers on avoiding bias-based policing.\(^\text{21}\) Finally, it would have streamlined the complaint procedure for victims of profiling, giving our state Attorney General oversight over any and all complaints.\(^\text{22}\)

HB 3521 Voter Registration Modernization

Communities of color and low income communities are more likely to be mobile, move more frequently and struggle to maintain current voter registration status.\(^\text{23}\) Existing voter registration policy results in limited access to the vote. HB 3521 would have modernized Oregon’s current voter registration system by utilizing the Department of Motor Vehicles existing databases to register all eligible and consenting citizens to vote. HB 3521 would have ensured that voter registration status followed the registered voter, removing the barrier that required a voter to re-register with every move. Under HB 3521, voting ballots would have been sent to a person’s most current address. The failure to pass HB 3521 signifies a missed opportunity to ensure every eligible Oregonian receives a ballot and an opportunity to vote.
ECONOMIC EQUITY

DESPITE MEDIA HEADLINES TRUMPETING THE COUNTRY’S MOVE OUT OF THE GREAT RECESSION, there is still uneven pain. While Oregon’s overall unemployment rate stabilized at 8.4 percent in 2012, the unemployment rate for Whites was 8.7 percent, for Latinos it was 11.4 percent, and for African Americans it was 18.4 percent.

Meanwhile, racial inequality is also reflected in statewide rates for Oregonians facing poverty. Whites are far less likely to face poverty than communities of color in Oregon. In 2012, the poverty rate for Whites was only 15 percent, but 30 percent for Latinos, 34 percent for Native Americans and Alaska Natives, 36 percent for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders and 41 percent for African Americans.

When the color lines in jobs, income and wealth that grow from systemic barriers to opportunity are removed, the gains from recovery will be broadly shared. Legislative and political institutions make decisions that affect the distribution of income, wealth and other resources within our state. The legislature must take action to remedy the economic inequities and disparities that affect Oregonians, including communities of color. We also see this racial disparity reflected in statewide poverty rates.

Oregon’s Poverty Rate by Race, 2012

- White: 15%
- Latino: 30%
- Native Americans/Alaska Natives: 34%
- Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders: 36%
- African Americans: 41%

Source: Oregon Center for Public Policy
LEGISLATION PASSED DURING THE 2013 SESSION

HB 3409 Natural Hair Care Act

African immigrant and native-born African American communities are disproportionately affected by unemployment and do not have equitable access to small business opportunities.\(^\text{27}\) Still, many entrepreneurs of color turn to self-employment, particularly in natural hair care services. HB 3409 exempts natural hair care from Oregon’s barbering and cosmetology requirements. This legislation initiates a rule-making process that enables the Board of Cosmetology and stakeholders to develop an alternative licensing process for natural hair care stylists. The new licensing process could be as simple as an online testing option that covers topics of safety and sanitation, and could create a huge cost savings for these specialized hair care stylists. The bill eliminates the requirement for a full cosmetology license for practitioners who focus specifically on hair braiding, twisting, locking, brushing and combing without the use of chemical hair products.\(^\text{28}\) Oregon law previously required all natural hair care practitioners to acquire a full cosmetology license, which involves hundreds of hours of unrelated training and prohibitive costs. This bill removes a barrier to the growth of natural hair care businesses and services, paving the way for more jobs and increased opportunities for African immigrant and African American businesses. What is more, it helps to preserve an inter-generational cultural practice.

HB 2977 Wage Theft in Construction

Wage theft is the illegal practices of not paying workers for some or all of their work, paying workers less than the minimum wage, failing to pay time-and-a-half for overtime hours, and even failing to pay workers at all.\(^\text{29}\) From July 2010 through June 2011, construction accounted for only four percent of Oregon’s workforce, and yet the industry accounted for 18 percent of wage claims filed with the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry.\(^\text{30}\) HB 2977 prevents wage theft in the construction industry by requiring most construction labor brokers—who supply workers—to obtain a license with the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries.\(^\text{31}\) Construction businesses that intentionally use unlicensed brokers will be held liable for unpaid wages.\(^\text{32}\) This legislation benefits workers, including workers of color. In the U.S., foreign-born workers are two times more likely to face wage violations than U.S.-born workers.\(^\text{33}\) Foreign-born Latino workers experience the highest rates of minimum wage violations of any racial or ethnic group.\(^\text{34}\) Among U.S.-born workers, African American workers are three times more likely to experience a wage violation than White workers.\(^\text{35}\)

HB 3367 Supporting Working Families through the EITC

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) helps a quarter-million Oregon families—mainly families with children—who work yet still struggle to make ends meet because their jobs pay too little.\(^\text{36}\) Oregonians of color are disproportionately represented among low- and moderate-income earners and greatly benefit from the EITC.\(^\text{37}\) HB 3367 (Earned Income Tax Credit Renewal) extends the sunset on the Oregon Earned Income Tax Credit until the year 2020. A substantial body of research indicates that the EITC not only improves the economic well-being of working families but is also associated with work,
income, educational and health benefits. These benefits are long lasting. The EITC has been shown to improve the health of low-income mothers and reduce their experience of depression. It has also been connected with a reduced incidence of low-birth weight and premature babies. Children of EITC recipients are shown to do better in school, be more likely to attend college, and earn more when they enter the workforce. Although the EITC was extended, the legislature failed to expand the credit from six percent to eight percent of its federal counterpart during the regular session. They did vote for and pass this expansion to eight percent during the special session, substantially increasing the economic benefits and long-term health benefits experienced by working families, including Oregonians of color.

HB 2639 Expanding Opportunity through Section 8
Mixed-income housing policies focused on inclusion are shown to impact the quality of life of low-income families by increasing their social capital, improving access to public services, and providing them with healthy and safe environments. HB 2639 (Section 8 Non-discrimination) clarifies that landlords are no longer able to refuse to rent to potential tenants on the basis that they receive rent subsidies. The bill also requires the development of statewide strategies to provide better support to tenants and landlords when going through the leasing process and to strengthen the housing authorities’ educational efforts with landlords and and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

For renters, HB 2639 affirms that using a Section 8 housing voucher will allow them to have fair treatment when applying to rental housing, giving voucher holders more opportunity to find housing. In Multnomah County alone, more than 8,500 individuals and families hold Section 8 vouchers, and more than half of these families live in neighborhoods where 20 percent or more of the population has an income below the federal poverty line. 80 percent of individuals with Section 8 vouchers live in extreme poverty, earning less than $14,600 a year as an individual or less than $30,800 as a family of four. Additionally, nearly 40 percent of Section 8 voucher recipients in Multnomah County are African American.

HB 2639 will increase the ability of Section 8 voucher recipients to access neighborhoods with quality schools and easier availability of public services and transportation. It will also allow recipients to remain in neighborhoods where they have other family nearby and established social support networks.

SB 558 Protecting Wealth through Foreclosure Prevention
Home equity accounts for a much higher percentage of total wealth for both African American and Latino families than it does for White families. Mortgage foreclosures driven by predatory high risk loans have had a particularly devastating impact on communities. Although the majority of families affected by foreclosure are White, African American families are more than twice as likely to lose their homes. Half of all African American wealth and 67 percent of Latino wealth was lost during the ongoing foreclosure crisis due to the large percentage of total wealth in home equity.
SB 558 (Foreclosure Prevention and Mediation) expands the 2012 Oregon Foreclosure Assistance Program by requiring most lenders to offer mediation before initiating a judicial or non-judicial foreclosure. In addition, at risk homeowners have the right to initiate mandatory mediation prior to foreclosure through a housing counselor referral. Oregon is the first state to give homeowners the ability to initiate a mandatory face-to-face meeting with their lenders. The improved Oregon Foreclosure Assistance Program ensures that families facing foreclosure have sufficient information to understand the foreclosure process and be able to avoid foreclosure when possible.

**MISSED OPPORTUNITIES**

**HB 2890 Promoting Inclusionary Zoning**

Historically, financial institutions, developers and realtors promoted segregated housing patterns. Families of color and low income families were ushered into cities and neighborhoods without a choice through housing policies and real estate practices that promoted exclusion and segregated cities. One solution is to encourage inclusionary zoning, which is a land use practice that mandates that affordable housing units be built alongside market rate housing.

HB 2890 (Inclusionary Zoning) would have repealed Oregon Revised Statue 197.309 (a ban prohibiting local governments from requiring inclusionary zoning) and given local jurisdictions the ability to consider and potentially adopt their own inclusionary zoning policies, creating more opportunities for high-quality mixed-income and inclusive development in neighborhoods. The failure to pass HB 2890 means that many housing developers will continue to practice exclusionary zoning, limiting the construction of low cost and multi-family housing in wealthier communities, thereby perpetuating segregation.

Research documents that inclusionary zoning serves to promote choice and decentralize poverty by allowing low-income families to reside in neighborhoods that are healthier, safer and more supportive. Inclusionary zoning increases low-income families’ access to resources such as better schools, better public transportation and more responsive public services.

African Americans have long been prohibited from owning property and amassing wealth. The historical contexts of slavery, sharecropping, Jim Crow legislation, overt and structural racism, and the government’s consistent efforts to restrict African American access to the economic opportunities afforded to Whites all function to deepen the impact of the foreclosure on African American communities. The serial displacement of African American people in the United States accounts for a loss of capital, material resources, social integration, collective capacity and psychological resources. The historically repeated loss of these resources continues to have negative impacts on the health of African American individuals and African American communities across generations.
EDUCATION EQUITY

THE FACE OF OREGON’S PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM IS CHANGING.
In Oregon’s K-12 Public Schools during the 2011-2012 school year, more than one-third (35 percent) of children were identified as students of color. This number was just 16.3 percent as recently as the 1997-1998 school year. In Multnomah County, where people of color make up 26.3 percent of the population, nearly half (more than 45 percent) of students are from communities of color.58

Meanwhile, indicators of educational achievement and opportunity show a distinct racial bias. The four year graduation rates for students of color in Oregon are abysmal, with only 50 percent of Black and Native american students graduating on time.59

Despite the state’s education disparities and rapidly changing demographics, legislators have undermined the education system by failing to make equitable outcomes a priority and have disinvested in public education. A recent report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found that Oregon’s per pupil spending is currently 3.1 percent less than it was in 2008.60

Solutions exist. During the 2013 legislative session, some important gains were made to address school discipline policies and tuition equity. However, the crisis in our state education system will require continued commitment and action on the part of legislature to create an equitable system that works for all of Oregon’s students.

LEGISLATION PASSED DURING THE 2013 SESSION

HB 2192 Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline
Research indicates that students of color are significantly over-represented in practices that involve exclusionary discipline.61 In Oregon, Native American students experience the highest rates of exclusionary discipline and suffer the highest proportion of school days lost due to disciplinary action.62 African American students lose twice as many days of school due to expulsion or suspension than White students do.63 HB 2192 (School Discipline) reverses Oregon’s “zero tolerance” disciplinary practices by removing mandatory expulsion requirements from Oregon’s school discipline statute and guiding school administrators towards development and implementation of more equitable and appropriate uses of suspension and expulsion policies. District school boards are instructed to develop discipline policies that are unbiased toward students of color, keep students in school, provide opportunities for students to learn from their mistakes, are age appropriate, and use expulsion as a last resort for only the most serious conduct that endangers other students or staff.64 The bill also encourages schools to develop evidence-based disciplinary approaches such as restorative justice, peer mediation and positive behavior interventions.65 The overrepresentation of students of color in exclusionary discipline practices is directly linked to limiting a student’s ability to improve academically, higher school dropout rates, engagement in the juvenile justice system, and eventual overrepresentation in the adult criminal justice system.66, 67, 68
**HB 2787 Tuition Equity**

The shifting demographics of Oregon’s student population will require that the state do everything possible to encourage students of color to attend college. The racial diversity of Oregon’s high school graduates has grown steadily over the last decade, particularly in the number of Latino students.69 By the year 2029, Latino graduates are projected to increase from 12 percent to 33 percent of all Oregon high school graduates, while the percentage of White high school graduates is projected to decline by 19 percent.70 Oregon makes a significant investment by requiring all children in the state to attend high school, an investment that will no longer be lost by limiting undocumented students’ access to higher education.

In Oregon, children may attend public schools starting in kindergarten and graduate high school, but still be ineligible for in-state tuition if they are from an undocumented family. This means that college education is out of reach for many of Oregon’s students because of their documentation status. Students are charged out-of-state or international tuition rates, which are up to 300 percent higher.71 HB 2787 grants in-state tuition rates at Oregon public universities to all graduating Oregon high school students regardless of their documentation status. Under HB 2787, undocumented Oregon high school graduates are now eligible for in-state tuition rates if they have attended an Oregon high school for at least three years and filed a signed affidavit of their intent to become a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. Tuition equity is aligned with state education policy because it helps Oregon achieve its 40-40-20 education goal, a goal that by the year 2025, 40 percent of adult Oregonians will hold a bachelor’s or advanced degree, 40 percent will hold an associate degree or postsecondary certificate, and all adult Oregonians will hold a high school diploma or equivalent.72 Currently, only 5-10 percent of undocumented high school students attend college nationally.73 Allowing access to in-state tuition will expand access to education by increasing the number of students enrolling in Oregon universities and graduating with advanced degrees.

Tuition equity makes college more affordable for all Oregon students who have worked hard to graduate from high school and want to pursue higher education. Access to higher education significantly impacts economic security and achievement in the U.S. High-school educated workers are more than twice as likely to be unemployed than college-educated workers.74 Workers with a bachelor’s degree are estimated to earn $1,051,000 (55 percent) more over the course of their lifetime than workers with a high school diploma.75

**U.S. Lifetime Earnings by Educational Attainment, 2011**

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<tr>
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<th>$1,371,000</th>
<th>$2,422,000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School Graduate</td>
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<td>$2,422,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's Degree</td>
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<td>$2,422,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011, American Community Survey
“I have many friends who dream of attending a college, but the tuition rates are out of the sky, especially the out-of-state tuition, which makes it very hard for us to pay for school. There are already enough challenges we face, but access to in-state tuition for post-secondary education should not be a hurdle that we have to jump over. So I had to fight for my generation and future generations. In my personal life tuition equity has given me the chance to make my parents proud by attending Portland State University.”

–Mayra Martinez, 20-year old student

**SB 755 Minority Teachers Act**

In Oregon, almost all White students are routinely taught by and see people in authority—whether that is in front of the classroom or in the textbooks—who share their culture, language and history.

SB 755 broadens the definition of the term “minority” to include “a person whose first language is not English.” Under the original Teacher Diversity Act of 1991, native Russian, Ukrainian, Arabic and Romanian speakers (among others) were not considered minorities. However during the 2011-2012 school year, these four languages ranked among the top 10 languages of origin spoken by students in Oregon. Students whose first language is not English benefit from having contact with teachers who share their linguistic background.

Despite the positive step in expanding the definition of teacher diversity, policymakers dropped the original bill’s commitment to parity. Turning a blind eye toward parity will have a harmful impact on students of color. A small increase in the number of teachers of color will do very little to ensure that all students of color have the opportunity to engage with teachers who reflect their racial and cultural backgrounds. A wide body of research indicates that when students of color are taught by teachers of color, they do better on a number of academic outcomes.
Oregon K-12 Student of Color and Teacher of Color Count, 1997 to 2012 (percentage)

Source: Oregon Department of Education, Statewide Report Card, 2012-2013
HEALTH EQUITY

OREGON’S HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS ARE CHANGING RAPIDLY. Yet, communities of color in Oregon continue to face health disparities throughout their lifespan. Healthy Oregonians are better able to pay attention in school, miss fewer days of school and work, and can more actively participate in their neighborhoods and communities. The Oregon legislature must continue to seek out useful data to identify the specific health needs of all communities in Oregon and must take culturally appropriate steps to address these health needs. Solutions to race-based health disparities have to address the enduring systemic inequities in economic and environmental opportunities. Our livelihood depends on policies that strengthen institutions to promote equity and build a health care system that works for all.

LEGISLATION PASSED DURING THE 2013 SESSION

HB 3407 Strengthening Access to Traditional Healthcare Workers

Traditional health workers have been shown to improve the health of communities of color who experience a wide range of health disparities. They serve to strengthen their clients’ ties with their community network. They also support the development of cultural competency on the part of other health care providers by educating them about a community’s particular health needs and evaluating the cultural relevancy of treatments and interventions. HB 3407 (Traditional Healthcare Workers Commission) guarantees that Oregonians, including Oregonians of color, have access to culturally-specific and linguistically-appropriate care. The bill formalizes the Traditional Health Workers Commission and ensures the participation of traditional health workers in creating and informing the policy that applies to their own profession. The bill also prescribes participation by providers, the Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs), employers, consumers, as well as higher education and workforce development.

HB 2611 Cultural Competency for Health Professionals

There are real differences in the health outcomes of different communities in Oregon. Communities of color and other marginalized populations face significant health disparities in chronic disease and life expectancy. Ensuring that healthcare providers are equipped to effectively serve patients of all backgrounds and cultures has been shown to improve health outcomes. Cultural competency training is designed to address factors that contribute to health disparities, including communication between patients and practitioners, cultural and linguistic barriers, and access to care. HB 2611 facilitates a system-wide program of cultural competency continuing education for healthcare professionals. Specifically, this bill establishes authority for health licensing boards to accept cultural competency training units, sets up a system for professional boards to track participation in training and report progress to the Oregon Health Authority and the legislature.

TRADITIONAL HEALTH WORKERS INCLUDE:

• COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS
   Trusted community members who promote health in their own communities.

• PEER WELLNESS SPECIALIST
   A person and/or family member of a person with lived experience of mental health challenges and/or addictions who provides support and education to people needing healthcare services, and who has or is at risk for behavioral and/or physical health issues.

• PERSONAL HEALTH NAVIGATORS
   Assist individuals to find and connect with the health and social services they need.

• DOULAS
   Birth companions who provide support to women and families through the pregnancy and childbirth experience.
Research shows that cultural competency training has improved provider knowledge and greater patient satisfaction, resulting in better outcomes for patients of color and other vulnerable populations. Improving the cultural competency of Oregon’s healthcare workforce will produce a range of benefits and increase the quality of care for all Oregonians. It will increase the effectiveness of preventive care and effective management of chronic diseases, while reducing health care costs in both the long and short-term.

**SB 420 Mammogram and Dense Breast Tissue Screening**

African American women are more likely to die from breast cancer than all other women despite the fact that African American women experience lower rates of this cancer. For every 100 breast cancer diagnosis, nine more African American women will die than White women. The most significant factor contributing to this disparity is lower-quality care for women of color and reduced likelihood of receiving a diagnosis when their cancer is at an early stage.

SB 420 requires doctors to tell their patients if their mammograms show dense breast tissue and mandates that insurance cover the supplemental screenings required after dense breast tissue has been identified. Previously, doctors were not required to report dense breast tissue to patients even though it is a risk factor for breast cancer. Requiring doctors to notify patients of dense breast tissue will potentially lead to earlier diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer for all women and women of color in particular. African American women are more likely to experience poor post-diagnosis follow-up and treatment than other women. African American women are also known to have denser breast tissue than other women. Demanding that insurance cover the cost of supplemental screenings after dense breast tissue has been identified is one step towards addressing inequitable care.
Oregon’s legislation ensures that every participating provider is aware of the impact of culture, values and beliefs on their patient’s health and relationship to healthcare. HB 2611 will develop standards for high quality training that help participating providers acquire the skills to respond appropriately to a person’s unique cultural differences, including race and ethnicity, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, or physical disability. By developing these standards, we can begin to create the institutional changes in healthcare necessary to improve health outcomes for underserved communities.

HB 2134 Culturally Appropriate Data Collection Standards
HB 2134 (Culturally Appropriate Data Collection Standards) requires the Oregon Health Authority and the Department of Human Services to engage community stakeholders in creating new uniform standards for the data collection of race, ethnicity, language. The bill also includes a review every two years to align standards with national best practices, and regular reports to the legislature.

Current data collection policies are insufficient and too inconsistent to support the needs of Oregon’s growing and diverse communities. For example, the current practice of aggregating Asian and Pacific Islanders (API) into a single category effectively erases the diverse challenges facing many API communities. This leads to misleading data sets that diminish the ability of institutions and policymakers to identify, develop and monitor appropriate solutions. Disaggregating data to highlight the specific needs of all communities will allow policymakers and service providers to develop targeted interventions in the communities that are facing disparities and make better use of budget resources.

HB 2136 Reducing Tobacco Related Deaths through Prevention Funds
Tobacco disproportionately impacts youth and communities of color in Oregon. Both Native American and African American communities in this state use tobacco at higher rates than the statewide average. Nationwide, youth of color have historically been targeted by tobacco advertising and are at particular risk for tobacco initiation. HB 2136 (Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement Funds) directs Master Settlement Agreement funds to the Oregon Health Authority Fund and to the Tobacco Use Reduction Account. Each year, Oregon receives $181 million dollars from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA), a settlement designed to allow states to recover healthcare costs related to tobacco use. Previously, none of the MSA funding was allocated for tobacco prevention. HB 2136 directs $4 million toward tobacco prevention, $4 million toward physical education and $4 million toward school based health centers. While this is a great step forward, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that Oregon spend $43 million in order to have an effective tobacco prevention program. The failure to pass more significant funding in this bill signifies a missed opportunity to prevent tobacco use in Oregon, which remains a major health concern as tobacco related deaths account for 22.2 percent of all deaths in the state.
IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE ISSUES

IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITIES OF COLOR ARE A SIGNIFICANT AND GROWING PART OF OREGON’S POPULATION.

More than 375,000 Oregonians, or almost one in 10, were born outside of the U.S.

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<td>Total Oregon Pop Estimate</td>
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Since 1975, Oregon has been accepting refugees, most of who settle in the greater Portland metro area. There is currently a total of 61,431 Oregonians with refugee status. The largest refugee groups arriving today come from: Burma, Cuba, Iraq, Somalia and countries from the former Soviet Union.100

LEGISLATION PASSED DURING THE 2013 SESSION

HB 2517 Restoring Driver Licenses for COFA Pacific Islanders

The COFA (Compact of Free Association) states of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands are former trust territories of the U.S. and have a special relationship with our country.101 COFA citizens have the legal right to travel to, reside and work in the U.S. in return for critical U.S. military interests and long-term environmental impacts due to nuclear testing in COFA countries.102

Legislation passed in 2008 designed to deny driver’s licenses to undocumented immigrants also impacted COFA residents by barring them from obtaining regular eight-year driver’s licenses due to their uncertain length of stay in the U.S. Instead, they are given permits that expire and must be renewed every single year. While renewal is routinely granted, the process of renewing requires special documentation and creates significant barriers to travel, work and overall quality of life.

HB 2157 provides an exception for citizens of COFA countries to have an Oregon driver license or identification card for the regular eight years even if their length of stay in US is unknown.103
“By restoring my access to an Oregon driver’s license I have one less barrier to staying employed.”
–Kathleen Jonathan, Oregon Marshallese Association

SB 833 Safe Roads Act

In 2008, the Oregon legislature passed a law that created unnecessary barriers for individuals to legally drive or purchase insurance. This causes unnecessary costs and consequences for other drivers, immigrant communities of color, insurance companies, homeowners, businesses and law enforcement. Estimates show that by 2014 more than 80,000 Oregon workers will lose their license, making this one of the biggest public safety issues of our time. Allowing all Oregon residents who meet the qualifications for a standard license, regardless of ability to prove citizenship or legal status, to apply and get a license will help make our roads safer for all of us. It will also allow people to get safely to their jobs, churches, schools and other places they need to be.

Senate Bill 833 creates the Oregon Drivers’ Card, a short-term (four-year) drivers’ license for applicants who cannot provide all of the documentation required to get a standard Oregon Drivers’ License. Oregon Drivers’ Card applicants must pass written and driving skills tests, show that they have lived in Oregon for at least one year, and provide proof of identity including date of birth.

SB 833 removes this unnecessary barrier and functions both as a public safety measure and as a measure of racial equity. Creating easier access to a drivers’ card will reduce the number of unlicensed and uninsured motorists on Oregon’s roads. Safety for everyone increases when all Oregon drivers are tested, licensed and insured.
BUDGET EQUITY

ONE OF THE KEY JOBS FOR THE OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY is to create a biennial budget. This budget is a reflection of the priorities of our state; it outlines levels of support and funding for state services and the programs that affect our quality of life. The budget crafted by the legislature can help make progress towards full inclusion and equity for all Oregonians, create shared prosperity, and support a thriving state.

Economic policies and public spending and revenue decisions have enormous impacts—positive and negative—on different racial and ethnic groups. State budgets are not just checkbooks, they are moral documents. They reveal whether our values of fairness and justice actually manifest in our financial decision-making.

A focus on racial equity outcomes is critical in the budget process. The Oregon state budget should take into account the existing disparities between communities of color and White Oregonians—and allocate resources in ways that address the root causes of these disparities in order to ensure equal opportunity for all Oregonians. Low income communities and people of color have disproportionately borne the brunt of budget cuts.

This section examines the health and human services area of the budget as a beginning approach to developing a racial equity analysis of our state’s budget.

HUMAN SERVICES

The 2013-2015 budget for human services saw modest reinvestment in some critical areas, but there is much more to do to help all Oregonians thrive. Human services programs help Oregonians meet their basic needs, address critical barriers, and return to stability. The 2011-13 budget severely cut these services, while the legislature made modest reinvestments in the 2013-15 budget. There is more to do to help children and families meet their basic needs, while the poverty rates, particularly among communities of color, continue to rise.

In the 2013-15 budget, legislators grappled with about $32 million less in one-time federal funds than in the previous biennium. These funds had helped to provide safety net and basic services. Given the available funds, the legislature chose to:

• Carry forward the cuts to services and restrictions on eligibility that were instituted in the previous biennium. Those cuts impacted basic family support programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Employment Related Day Care (ERDC). For families receiving temporary assistance through TANF and their employment program (JOBS), this has meant a significant reduction in the breadth of services available. In 2013, only one out of six families receiving cash assistance was also receiving the support services they needed to return to employment. For families receiving assistance and attempting to pay for childcare through ERDC, the continuation of the budget cuts meant longer waiting lists and fewer families receiving assistance.
• Invest $13.9 million to parts of these basic safety net programs, despite the over-arching cuts, which had a useful, but limited impact. This included:

→ $5 million for the TANF Job Opportunities and Basic Skills program. These funds will help provide more families with services they need to return to employment.

→ $8.9 million investment into Employment Related Day Care (ERDC). The legislature only invested enough funds to increase provider rates—a critical investment that will ensure families continue to have safe and affordable childcare and providers are adequately compensated. However, the legislature did not make additional investments to increase the number of families eligible to receive assistance. Both investments are necessary to make this program effective.

• Allocate $56.1 million in the Department of Human Services technology systems to improve data collection and eligibility determination, which will improve services for people.106

While the increased 2013-15 investments in temporary assistance and childcare are positive steps, the deep cuts to these basic safety net services in prior years have reduced their ability to assist Oregonians who need help to stabilize and return to employment. Now, more than ever, we need to continue to protect and invest in the programs that help us meet the basic needs of all of our Oregon families, children and communities.

HEALTHCARE
Everyone should have access to the care they need to be healthy. Today, too many Oregonians—including communities of color—face barriers to adequate health care. In 2013, the Oregon legislature expanded investments in public structures that provide health insurance to Oregonians with lower incomes. Though many Oregonians still lack health insurance, the legislature can be credited with prioritizing health care in the 2013-15 budget to move the state closer to achieving coverage for everyone.

• Communities of color face greater obstacles to health insurance than White Oregonians generally do. The primary source of health coverage in Oregon—job-based insurance—is not accessed by people of color to the same degree given the higher unemployment and underemployment rates.

• While two out of three uninsured Oregonians in 2012 were White, Oregonians of color were significantly over-represented among the uninsured.107

• Public sources of health coverage play a particularly important role in extending health coverage to communities. Oregon provides coverage through the Oregon Health Plan (OHP), the state’s Medicaid program. Although 85 percent of Oregonians served by Medicaid in Oregon are White, a disproportionate number of people of color rely on Medicaid coverage. For instance, in the period 2009-11, one in eight Whites obtained their health insurance through Medicaid. By contrast, the figure was one in three African Americans or Hispanics, and one in four Native Americans or Alaska Natives.108 State investments in medical assistance programs are critical to ensuring the health of our state, and in particular, communities of color.
Driven by the new federal dollars, the 2013-15 budget continues a pattern of increased investments in Oregon’s medical assistance, as well as a commitment by lawmakers to boost health coverage across the state. For instance, in 2009, the legislature raised new resources to enable the Oregon Health Plan to serve nearly all low-income children and to subsidize private coverage for children at higher incomes. Excluded from the plan are undocumented low-income children. That year the legislature also raised funds to cover more adults in the Oregon Health Plan. As a result, the number of adults served by the Oregon Health Plan more than doubled.

The legislature has made smart and impactful investments in health care. These important investments will help to give communities some of what they need to move towards opportunity and equity. We believe the legislature should continue its commitment to ensuring critical access to health care for all Oregonians.

Oregon’s economic future depends on investing in our people and making sure that everyone has the opportunity to succeed. Large and long-term economic disparities are a threat to the welfare of all Oregonians. Although we are pleased with the progress being made in strengthening access to health care, Human Services needs much more investment to help Oregonians meet their basic needs, return to stability, and address ever-widening barriers.

We encourage state legislators to keep the following principles in mind as they develop future budgets. We believe that these principles can guide the creation of a state budget that helps address Oregon’s deep racial inequities.

### Racial Equity Budget Principles

1. **INVEST WISELY FOR THE LONG RUN.** While addressing short-term difficulties, we must remember our decisions will impact communities for years to come. Even in tough times, it’s important to invest in the future. We cannot undermine the core infrastructure—access to education, investments in children and families—that ensures opportunities to thrive. Trimming or dismantling our core public infrastructure and services will create new economic and social costs and deepen existing disparities.

2. **STRIVE FOR TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND INCLUSIVITY IN THE BUDGET PROCESS.** With new structures and guidelines in place, the process for making our state’s budget priorities has changed. Be sure to reach out to organizations and communities of color to ensure the Oregonians most impacted by budget decisions have a voice in the process.

3. **LOOK FOR ADEQUATE RESOURCES.** We cannot cut our way out of these economic hard times. We will need to look for new sources of revenue to support the state’s resources. Raising revenue in a way that is equitable and does not disproportionately burden those with the lowest incomes is needed. We must close tax loopholes and ensure businesses pay their fair share. We must also look at the taxes paid by top income earners.
CONCLUSION

SOLUTIONS EXIST TO END RACIAL DISPARITIES IN OREGON. State policy plays a critical role to ensure fairness and opportunity for all Oregonians. The 2013 legislative session made strides forward by sponsoring, considering and passing policy reforms that focus on racial equity and improve all Oregonians’ lives. The purpose of this report is to promote dialogue and understanding of how we create a state where all Oregonians can flourish. Facing Race: 2013 Legislative Report Card on Racial Equity can serve as a tool to help policymakers consider the racial impact of legislation in the 2014 special session and the 2015 regular session. We can do a better job for our state and all who live here.

METHODOLOGY

THIS REPORT CARD IS THE PRODUCT OF THE RACIAL EQUITY REPORT CARD WORKING GROUP, a coalition of non-partisan community based organizations. The working group consists of: Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), Basic Rights Education Fund, Causa Oregon, Center for Intercultural Organizing, Partnership for Safety and Justice, Urban League of Portland and Western States Center.

The working group was originally formed in September 2010 to work on the first Facing Race report. The Working Group chooses priority bills, criteria for inclusion in the report card, how legislation will be graded and plans advisory group meetings. The Advisory Group consists of over 20 organizations that meet quarterly to provide input on priority bills. For a list of endorsing advisory group members, please see the inside of the back cover.

There were close to 3,000 bills introduced in the 2013 session, 831 of which were passed into law during the 155 days of the 77th Oregon Legislative Assembly. The Democrats had a majority in both houses, with a 16-14 majority in the Senate and a 34-26 majority in the House.

To assess the state legislature on their commitment to expanding opportunity and racial equity, 21 bills were selected that if enacted into law would advance equity and eliminate disparities in Oregon. Eighteen of these bills made it into law. Three bills did not make it into law and were labeled missed opportunities.
CRITERIA
Potential bills for inclusion were identified by the Working Group and the Advisory Group; these are leaders and organizations that promote racial and economic equity and have firsthand experience with the policy areas in this report. More than 75 possible bills were initially identified. Each of the bills was tracked through BillTrackOr as it moved through the session.

For inclusion in the report card, bills needed to meet at least one of the following criteria:

• Does the legislation explicitly address racial disparities and work to eliminate racial inequities?

• Will the legislation help eliminate access barriers to public benefits and institutions for communities of color?

• Does the legislation advance enfranchisement and full civic participation of everyone in the state?

• Will the legislation protect against racial violence, racial profiling and discrimination?

CONTACT WITH LEGISLATORS
For this report card, the Working Group decided to give grades to individual legislators to strengthen the accountability, rather than grading only the chambers as we did in the 2011 report card. Communication with legislators began in December 2012 with a series of interviews. The interviews were organized to gather feedback on legislators’ experiences and opinions about our first report on the 2011 session.

At the beginning of the 2013 session, letters were sent to each legislator, to explain the Facing Race project. Legislators were also invited to submit bills they were working on that they thought might be a good fit for this report. During the session, bill alerts were sent via e-mail to legislators before floor votes on any bills with the potential for inclusion in the report card. Finally all legislators and their staff were invited to an informational meeting held at the Capitol to answer any questions and concerns about the report card.

GRADING PROCESS
Individual grades are based on a percentage score given from tallying the votes on the 18 bills that got floor votes included in this report card. Double points were given for votes on our five priority bills: Driver’s Cards (SP833), Tuition Equity (HB2787), Justice Reinvestment (HB3194), Cultural Competency (HB2611) and Data Collection (HB2134). Priority bills were decided before the session based on their potential to have the broadest impact and represented the legislative priorities of our working group members. Actual votes account for 90 percent of the grade with an additional 10 percent available for chief sponsors of legislation (with a maximum of two leadership bills per legislator). Percentage grades were then translated into letter grades (please see chart). The end of this report contains legislators’ individual votes on the 18 bills and the corresponding letter grade.

GRADING CHART

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- = priority bill; ✔ = support of racial equity; ✗ = vote against racial equity; • = excused absence
## HOUSE

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<th>% People of Color in District</th>
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<th>Health Equity</th>
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= priority bill; ✓ = support of racial equity; X = vote against racial equity; • = excused absence

2013 OREGON RACIAL EQUITY REPORT | 29
### HOUSE

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<th>District</th>
<th>% People of Color in District</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Criminal Justice</th>
<th>Civil Rights</th>
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= priority bill; ✓ = support of racial equity; x = vote against racial equity; • = excused absence
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<td>Diane Rosenbaum</td>
<td>D-21</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
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<td>Chip Shields</td>
<td>D-22</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>Bruce Starr</td>
<td>R-15</td>
<td>36.0%</td>
<td>NI</td>
<td>✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Steiner Hayward</td>
<td>D-17</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>Chuck Thomsen</td>
<td>R-26</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doug Whitsett</td>
<td>R-28</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>NI</td>
<td>✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔</td>
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<td>Jackie Winters</td>
<td>R-10</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
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<td>✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔</td>
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</table>

= priority bill; ✔ = support of racial equity; ✔ = vote against racial equity; • = excused absence
PERCENT OF PEOPLE OF COLOR

0-10%  11-20%  21-30%  31-40%

Source: quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/41/41001.html


5. Ibid


17. Racial Justice. ACLU Oregon. http://www.aclu-or.org/content/racial-justice

18. Ibid.


20. 77th Oregon Legislative Assembly. Senate Bill 560.


22. Ibid


25. Ibid


32. Ibid


34. Ibid

35. Ibid


37. Ibid
45. Ibid
46. Ibid
47. Ibid
48. Ibid
50. Ibid
53. Ibid, p. 390
57. Ibid.
62. Ibid
63. Ibid
64. House Bill 2192-B (2013 Regular Session) 77th Oregon Legislative Assembly.
65. Ibid
66. Ibid
70. Ibid
72. Senate Bill 253, (2011 Regular Session) 76th Oregon Legislative Assembly.
76. Senate Bill 755 (2013 Regular Session) 77th Oregon Legislative Assembly.
79. Ibid
81. Ibid
86. Ibid.
88. Ibid.
90. Ibid.
92. House Bill 2134 (2013 Regular Session) 77th Oregon Legislative Assembly.
93. Srinivasan, S. (2000). Toward improved health: disaggregating Asian American and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander data. American Journal of Public Health 90(11), 1731-1734. Although API share geographic and cultural commonalities, there are more than 60 ethnic groups and over 100 languages spoken by people of API descent in Oregon--who have unique historical, social, educational and economic differences.
97. Ibid
102. Ibid
103. House Bill 2157 (2013 Regular Session) 77th Oregon Legislative Assembly.
104. The 2013-15 Oregon self-sufficiency budget improved slightly from the prior budget period. Specifically, the Oregon Legislature allotted $578 million for self-sufficiency services (SNAP excluded) in 2013-15, compared to $573 million in 2011-13. That is only 0.8 percent above the level of the previous biennium, adjusted for inflation. Budget information for Self-Sufficiency and SNAP obtained through email communication with Bobbi Doan, Department of Human Services Communications Officer, September 12, 2013.
105. These policy choices meant $52 million fewer dollars were invested in self-sufficiency in 2013-15.
106. The Legislature committed to additional spending on the administration of self-sufficiency programs, including $56.1 million for technology systems upgrades, $34.7 million of which coming from federal funds. Legislative Fiscal Office memo to Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee regarding SB 5529. June 24, 2013.
107. American Community Survey data shows that two-thirds (67 percent) of uninsured Oregonians in 2012 were non-Hispanic Whites. Among non-Hispanic Whites, 13 percent lacked health insurance, while for the rest of the population 22 percent lacked insurance.
108. OCPP analysis of Current Population Survey data. For instance, in the period 2009-11, 13 percent of Whites obtained their health insurance through Medicaid. By contrast, the figure was 32 percent for Blacks, 29 percent for Hispanics and 23 percent of Native Americans/Alaska Natives. The share of Asian Oregonians participating in Medicaid, at 6 percent, was below that of Whites. Twenty-five percent of Oregonians of two or more races relied on Medicaid. Data for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders is not available.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PRINCIPAL RESEARCHERS AND WRITERS
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Coalition of Communities of Color
Coalition for A Livable Future
Community Alliance of Tenants
Economic Fairness Oregon
Hacienda Community Development Corporation
Latino Network
Native American Youth & Family Center
OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon
Oregon Action
Oregon Alliance for Education Equity
Oregon Center for Public Policy
Oregon Environmental Council
Oregon Latino Agenda for Action
Oregon Latino Health Coalition
Oregon Student Association
Portland African American Leadership Forum
Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN)
Rural Organizing Project
Upstream Public Health

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PHOTO CREDITS
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PRINTING
Nu-Way Printing

COVER PHOTO
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Facing Race: 2013 Legislative Report on Racial Equity was made possible with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and individual donors.
The Oregon Racial Equity Report is a collaborative effort of the Racial Equity Report Working Group:
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO)
Basic Rights Education Fund
Causa Oregon
Center for Intercultural Organizing
Partnership for Safety and Justice
Urban League of Portland
Western States Center