



Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Advocating for Equity and Diversity
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House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Testimony in support of HB 4058

February 3, 2022

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Hudson & Brock Smith, and Representatives Goodwin, Helm, Moore-Green, Owens, Pham, Valderrama, and Wilde,

My name is Jackie Leung and I am Co-Chair of the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA). On behalf of the Commission, I am writing a letter in support of HB 4058 which directs Oregon Health Authority to create a program to acquire and distribute air conditioners and air purifiers on emergency basis to individuals eligible for medical assistance, in addition to other measures that improve cooling access for Oregonians in need.

Oregon Commission on
Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

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1. OCAPIA's role is to work toward economic, social, political, and legal equity for Oregon's Asian and Pacific Islander population. We do this through advocacy, public policy research, leadership development, and partnerships.
2. In our statutory role of bringing equity focus and community voice into Oregon policy making, OCAPIA strongly supports HB 4058.

In the past several years, Oregon residents experienced severe and significant weather extremes, from increased flooding, severe ice storms, drought, wildfires, and lethal heat



waves. Like other places across the country and world Oregon's climate is changing, and policy investments are necessary for protecting the health and safety of the most vulnerable residents, including the more than 1 in 10 Asian-American Oregonians who have incomes below the federal poverty level.¹

The emergency heat relief bill addresses environmental justice and health equity issues. OCAPIA urges the committee to pass HB 4058.

Sincerely,



Co-Chair of the Oregon Commission
on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

¹ <https://talkpoverty.org/state-year-report/oregon-2020-report/>

