



*from the*  
**LEGISLATIVE BIPOC CAUCUS**

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**BIPOC Caucus Welcomes Representative Lamar Wise,  
Newest Member of the Legislature**

**SALEM, Ore.** - Today, the Legislative Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Caucus is proud to announce that Lamar Wise has been sworn in as the State Representative of House District 48, following the passing of Representative Hòa Nguyễn, a dear friend and colleague. The ceremony was officiated by the Honorable Justice Aruna A. Masih at Chop Chop Food Pod in outer Southeast Portland.

"I'm proud to welcome Rep. Wise to the BIPOC Caucus – a tireless advocate for working families, young people, and historically underserved communities. I look forward to working alongside him to honor Hòa's legacy and continue the work she cared so deeply about," said **Rep. Ricki Ruiz (D – Gresham), BIPOC Caucus Co-Chair**.

Rep. Wise has dedicated his career to advocating for Oregon's working families, expanding access to education, opportunity, and prosperity for everyone. His life of advocacy first started with the Oregon Student Association, where he fought to make higher education more accessible and equitable. Since then, Rep. Wise became a political director for one of the state's largest labor unions and served on numerous economic and social justice boards including the ACLU of Oregon, Our Oregon, and the Governor's Racial Justice Council.

"East Portland and North Clackamas can rest assured they are gaining a champion of working families, seniors, and children. Representative Wise will bring compassion, hard work, and a track record of delivering for communities in need at a time when the constituents of HD 48 need affordable housing, quality education and accessible healthcare and food," said **Rep. Andrea Valderrama (D – Outer East Portland), BIPOC Caucus Vice Chair**. "I look forward to continuing to work with HD 48's Representative to lift up outer east Portland communities and welcome Representative Wise to the caucus."

"Rep. Wise has been listening to and advocating for students, families, and workers long before considering a role in the legislature," said **Sen. Kayse Jama (D – E Portland, Boring,**

**Damascus), Senate Majority Leader.** “There's no better way to prepare for office, and I'm eager to team up with him in serving the people we both represent in East Portland and North Clackamas County.”

With this swearing in, Rep. Wise becomes the second Black man currently serving in the Oregon House of Representatives, joining Rep. Travis Nelson (D – N & NE Portland). Many electeds and community leaders attended the ceremony to celebrate this historic moment and welcome their new colleague.

“Lamar Wise is a community centered advocate known for putting workers first. I have no doubt he will do a fantastic job as Rep. Hòa Nguyễn’s successor,” said **Rep. Travis Nelson (D – N & NE Portland), BIPOC Caucus Vice Chair.**

For the photos of the swearing in of Rep. Lamar Wise, please click [here](#).

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