



PRESS RELEASE

LEGISLATIVE BIPOC CAUCUS

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Press Contact:

Mical Yohannes

mical.yohannes@oregonlegislature.gov

Legislative BIPOC Caucus Advocates for an Equitable Recovery for All Oregonians

SALEM, OR - Today the Oregon Legislature's Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) Caucus released their [Legislative Agenda for the 2022 Session](#). During this session, the Caucus will advocate for access to quality jobs, healthcare and education, healthy and safe communities and a representative and fair democracy.

Into its third year, the COVID-19 global pandemic continues to disproportionately impact Black and Brown communities. From the highest number of COVID-19 outbreaks to the lowest access to vaccinations, our communities have borne the brunt of the health and economic impacts of this virus.

"In this short session, we are called to continue our work to close racial disparities and ensure that this recovery reaches everyone," said [Senator Kayse Jama](#) (D-Portland, Chair of the BIPOC Caucus). "We are determined to address the urgent needs of frontline communities, including farm workers, educators, students, working parents, and small businesses who are vital to our state and to our overall recovery."

On Monday January 7th, the Legislature had its first deadline for bills to be scheduled for a work session, and nearly all of the bills on this agenda have made it past this first deadline.

The Legislature and the BIPOC Caucus recently welcomed two new members who were sworn into office on the first day of the session, [Representative Travis Nelson](#) (D-Portland), a board certified nurse, and [Representative Nathan Sosa](#) (D-Hillsboro), a lawyer and small business owner.

"We began this session on the first day of Black History Month, a time to reflect on our history as the only state to enter the union with Black exclusion laws in our Constitution and the racial disparities that persist to this day," said [Representative Travis Nelson](#) (D-Portland). "I am proud to join the Legislature as the first Black LGBTQIA+ member of this body and will work with my fellow colleagues to create a welcoming and just state for Oregonians of all backgrounds to serve and thrive in our communities."

To find the BIPOC Caucus' complete list of bills for the 2022 legislative short session, [click here](#).

Caucus Members

Senators: Kayse Jama (Chair), Akasha Lawrence Spence (Co-Vice Chair), Lew Frederick

Representatives: Andrea Valderrama (Co-Vice Chair), Teresa Alonso Leon, Janelle Bynum, Wlnsvey Campos, Mark Meek, Travis Nelson, Khanh Pham, Ricki Ruiz, Andrea Salinas, Tawna Sanchez, Nathan Sosa

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