

TRAVIS E. NELSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 44



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 4, 2025

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on SB 874A

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I was disappointed that Senate Bill 874A did not include the "whereas clauses" from the -1 amendment. Stakeholders worked collaboratively to identify a way to rename "Oriental" and replace it with a more appropriate and less offensive term. I believe that, as a body, the Legislature should not reinforce outdated or harmful language in statute. For the record, I am listing the "whereas" clauses below:

"Whereas the term 'Oriental' is widely recognized as outdated, offensive and derogatory language that has been used to marginalize Asian communities; and

"Whereas this terminology has been used to racialize and portray Asian peoples and cultures as perpetually foreign, exotic and 'other' in American society; and

"Whereas the term 'Oriental' has been associated with policies that justified immigration exclusion acts, racial discrimination, political disenfranchisement, economic extortion and segregation of Asian communities in Oregon and throughout the United States; and

"Whereas the continued use of this terminology in Oregon statutes perpetuates inequality and discrimination toward and harmful stereotypes of Asians and Asian Americans; and

"Whereas Asian Americans have made significant and valuable contributions to Oregon's economy, culture, health care systems and communities for over 150 years; and

"Whereas 'Traditional Eastern medicine' more accurately describes a holistic system of medicine developed in China, Japan, Korea and other Asian and non-Asian countries; and "Whereas acupuncture and other Traditional Eastern medicine practices have gained increasing recognition worldwide, and are now being widely utilized worldwide; and

"Whereas practitioners of Traditional Eastern medicine in Oregon have worked diligently to gain professional recognition within the broader medical community and equitable treatment from insurance companies and health care systems."

Sincerely,

State Representative Travis Nelson
House District 44, North/NE Portland

Capitol Address: 900 Court St. NE, H-275, Salem, OR 97301 - (503) 986-1444
Rep.TravisNelson@oregonlegislature.gov - www.oregonlegislature.gov/Nelson

