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House of Representatives

2021 Regular Legislative Session Accomplishments

The majority caucus going into the session identified addressing wildfires and rapidly changing environments, and COVID 19 health and economic recovery. As we progressed through the session, however, the BIPOC caucus and I were able to also make progress on additional priorities like housing, public safety and police accountability, education, immigration rights and childcare and infrastructure.

“Unprecedented” and “you’re on mute” seem to fairly sum up this 2021 Regular Legislative Session, as the first ever long session conducted virtually, many technical difficulties and closed public spaces due to COVID 19 pandemic concerns, as well as additional safety concerns as a result of Oregon’s December Capitol protest that included Representative Nearman letting in armed protestors into the building, increased hate violence and discrimination towards BIPOC communities, and a national reckoning with racial justice.

We were also faced with an additional \$1.18 billion revenue forecast for the current two-year budget cycle ending June 30, even more than expected in

Oregon House District 47 is in Outer East Portland, which sits on the traditional lands of the Multnomah, Kathlamet, Clackamas Bands of the Chinook and many other tribes who made their home along the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. Tribes from this ancestral territory are now part of the Grand Ronde, Siletz, and Warm Springs sovereign nations.

February (driven mainly by increased income taxes). Economists also expect an additional \$1.25 billion for the 2021-23 biennium, and \$1.64 billion more from 2023-25. I was astonished by the obvious lack of analysis and data on women, mothers, and BIPOC workers who we know are struggling throughout this pandemic and who experience persistent economic and social disparities that have been amplified this past year, so I partnered with Fair Shot Oregon to have an additional briefing on the data specific to mothers of color and the BIPOC workforce and to lift up the need to fully fund the People’s Budget. Read the follow up data [here](#).

This does mean that Oregonians can expect to get their personal income tax kicker as a credit during next year’s taxes. Oregonians at the state’s median income level — making between \$35,000 and \$40,000 a year — will receive \$312 back. The top 20% of income earners are estimated to receive between \$1,182 and \$12,856 in refunds.

Thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Oregon will receive \$2.6 billion in COVID-19 relief. Of this total funding, about \$1.3 billion will be used to ensure we can continue core services and existing programs, another \$520 million will be reserved to continue essential services in future budget cycles, and \$750 million has been provided to legislators to make direct investments in our communities.

2021 Rep. Valderrama's Legislative Session

85 BILLS SPONSORED!

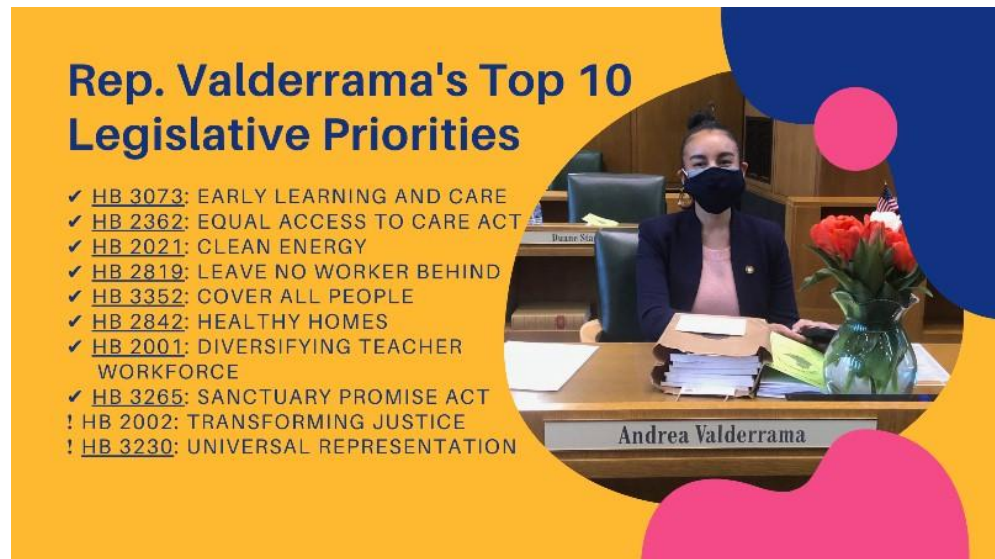
58 PASSED INTO LAW!

\$2 million
INVESTED DIRECTLY IN HD 47
FOR ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT
AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

I was proud to have signed on to 85 total pieces of legislation, of which 58 passed into law! My top 10 bills included community priorities like [HB 3073](#): Early Learning and Care, [HB 2842](#): Healthy Homes, [HB 2001](#): Diversifying

Teacher Workforce and [HB 3265](#): Sanctuary Promise Act. As a Revenue Committee

member, I was happy to lift up and pass [HB 2819](#): Leave No Worker Behind, while in my Energy and Environment Committee we passed [HB 2021](#): Clean Energy. Access

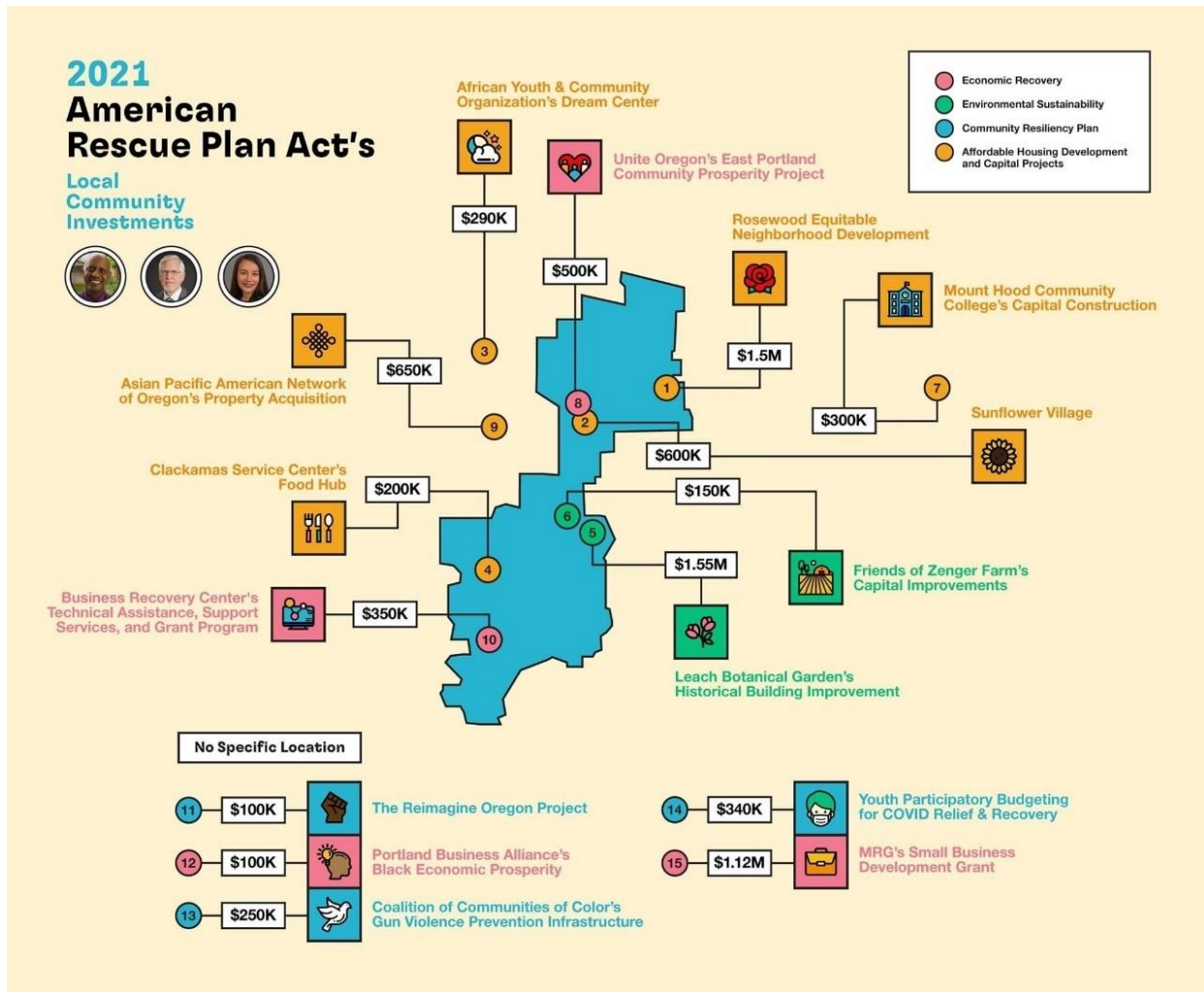


Rep. Valderrama's Top 10 Legislative Priorities

- ✓ [HB 3073](#): EARLY LEARNING AND CARE
- ✓ [HB 2362](#): EQUAL ACCESS TO CARE ACT
- ✓ [HB 2021](#): CLEAN ENERGY
- ✓ [HB 2819](#): LEAVE NO WORKER BEHIND
- ✓ [HB 3352](#): COVER ALL PEOPLE
- ✓ [HB 2842](#): HEALTHY HOMES
- ✓ [HB 2001](#): DIVERSIFYING TEACHER WORKFORCE
- ✓ [HB 3265](#): SANCTUARY PROMISE ACT
- ! [HB 2002](#): TRANSFORMING JUSTICE
- ! [HB 3230](#): UNIVERSAL REPRESENTATION

to healthcare was another priority, and I was proud to see both [HB 2362](#): Equal Access to Care Act and [HB 3352](#): Cover All People pass. Eight of my top 10 bills passed, and I will be coming back to advocate again for [HB 2002](#): Transforming Justice and [HB 3230](#): Universal Representation.

I was also proud to have completed six different town halls, sent out ongoing newsletters, and established new community engagement strategies for district constituents as well as coalition partners. People powered agendas require significant engagement and we were able to continue engaging directly impacted communities despite the challenges of a remote legislative session and working through a global pandemic.



ARPA Funding Updates

Rosewood Equitable Neighborhood Development (\$1,150,000)

This investment will benefit the racially and culturally diverse communities who live in the neighborhood now. The Rosewood Village Core will increase the supply of affordable housing and ensure equitable, affordable, and community-based development that fosters intergenerational neighborhood stability and avoids displacement for existing community members at this critical moment.

East Portland Community Prosperity Project (\$500,000)

Federal recovery funding will allow Unite and Mercy Corps to provide wraparound small business development education and services. This will include culturally specific community outreach, engagement and recruitment, as well as small

business and entrepreneurship development training and micro low-interest loans to ensure small businesses have the capital to launch their ventures.

APANO Property Acquisition Fund (\$350,000)

The Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon's Property Acquisition Fund will support the exploration of a potential community development corporation spin off department or entity at APANO focused on serving Asian and Pacific Islander communities' affordable housing needs. Projects are identified in East Multnomah County, Washington County, and Clackamas County.

The following bills are a handful of the bills that have been introduced, sponsored, and/or supported by Representative Valderrama, the BIPOC Caucus, and/or the majority caucus. For a full list of bills passed this Session, [click here](#).

Economic Opportunity & Housing

The Oregon Department of Housing and Community Services is partnering with local organizations to provide more than \$200 million in assistance to low-income Oregonians that have been financially impacted by COVID-19. To find out additional information about criteria or to apply to the OERAP program visit OregonRentalAssistance.org. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis through 2022, or until program funds run out. Oregonians in need of assistance can contact their local Community Action Agency or local program administrator or contact 211info.org or call 2-1-1.

Securing and owning a house is key to generating generational wealth, but through policies like redlining and urban planning, BIPOC communities have many times been denied the tools and resources to purchase a home. The Caucus prioritized legislation to spur economic growth by making housing more affordable and accessible, as well as increasing access to secure and stable housing and shelter for people experiencing homelessness. A sample of bills from this session include:

- [HB 2518](#): Brownfields Redevelopment - Establishes forgivable loan program to revitalize Brownfields properties.

- [HB 2551](#)(Funded through [HB 2433](#)): Invests in Individual Development Accounts (IDA) and sunset extension.
- [HB 2550](#): Keeps home sellers from discriminating based on race.
- [SJM 4](#): Urges Congress to enact legislation to begin the process of implementing reparations for Black Americans based on slavery and discrimination.
- [SB 79](#): Addresses racial disparities in homeownership, providing grants and technical assistance to organizations increasing homeownership access to persons of color.
- [SB 850](#): Collects data on unhoused peoples.
- [HB 3335](#): Promotes safe, stable and affordable homes, creating a pilot program to construct accessory dwelling units.
- [HB 2007](#): Requires implicit bias training for mortgage loan originators.
- [SB 278](#): Requires landlords and courts to delay termination of residential tenancies for nonpayment for 60 days if the tenant provides documentation of application for rental assistance.
- [SB 282](#): Extends grace period for repayment, protecting tenants impacted by COVID.
- [HB 2935](#): The CROWN Act - Bans public schools and employers from discriminating against hairstyles associated with race or sexual orientation.

Mental and Behavioral Health

Following a traumatic year, fueled by COVID-19, an economic and housing crisis, Oregon families and communities need accessible, affordable and comprehensive care. This Session, legislation was passed to provide Oregonians with a statewide system of behavioral health crisis care that offers a response that is rapid, effective, consistent and linguistically and culturally appropriate to save lives. A sample of bills from this session include:

- [HB 2417](#): Expands crisis stabilization services, including a 9-8-8 crisis hotline and mobile crisis services and centers.
- [HB 2949](#): Diversifies the mental health care pipeline and provides financial assistance for undergraduates and graduate students.

- [HB 2086](#): Provides community-driven programs with a focus on culturally-specific and responsive behavioral health services to people of color, tribal communities and people of lived experience.

Public Safety/Police Reform and Accountability

A series of bills were introduced this Session to hold police and law enforcement accountable to the communities they serve, build trust, give communities more agency, and prioritize public safety above all. A sample of bills from this session include:

- [HB 3355](#): Creates transparency by specifying what identification must be on a law enforcement officer's uniform and gear during crowd management situations, such as protests.
- [HB 2929](#): Strengthens police misconduct reporting requirements.
- [HB 2936](#): Affirms anti-racist values for law enforcement, adding social media policies and standardizing background checks.
- [HB 3047](#): Anti-doxing legislation that creates cause to sue for damages if a person's information is released without their consent
- [HB 3059](#): Keeps police from abusing powers by providing more clarity in how to manage "unlawful assemblies."
- [HB 3265](#): Updates the Sanctuary Promise Act to protect immigrant and refugee communities and prioritize public safety, keeping local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities separate.

Environmental Justice

Climate change and environmental justice issues [disproportionately impact](#) BIPOC and low-income communities, who due to policies like red lining and disinvestment, are more exposed to pollution, chemical toxins and waste, landfills, and sewage plants. Legislation this Session focused on creating renewable energy jobs, providing green home repairs, greater energy efficiency and lowering utility costs for BIPOC, low-income, and rural communities. A sample of bills from this session include:

- [HB 2475](#): Energy Affordability Act - Allows the Public Utility Commission to create a discount rate class for low-income households

- [HB 2842](#): Healthy Homes - Invests \$10 Million to enable low-income Oregonians to improve energy efficiency, safety and drive down costs.
- [HB 2021](#): 100% Clean Energy - Invests \$50 million in local jobs and clean energy for rural, coastal, low-income and BIPOC communities. This is the strongest electricity emissions reduction timeline in the country, setting the goal of 100% clean energy by 2040.

Education Equity

In approaching education equity, legislation focused on building a system where BIPOC students could succeed through culturally-specific services and support, as well as diversification of the pipeline for teachers. A sample of bills from this session include:

- [HB 2589](#): Ensures GED students receive the same placement exams and exemptions as their college ready peers.
- [HB 2817](#): Allows GED students to participate in interscholastic activities.
- [HB 2590](#): Gives students a voice; establishes Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education that includes BIPOC, rural, low-income, and other underrepresented students.
- [HB 2166](#): Prioritizes connecting students and parents with social workers and mental health resources, rather than disciplinary actions that disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) youth due to structural racism and a lack of culturally-appropriate and specific care.
- [HB 2056](#): Promotes multilingual education to support students of different backgrounds.
- [HB 2681](#): Prohibits the display of hate symbols on school property.
- [SB 5514](#): Funds a record \$9.3 billion in state school funding.

Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Protecting and amplifying immigrant and refugee voices and experiences was a key component of this Session's successes. Bills passed will ensure immigrant and refugee communities have access to adequate working benefits, healthcare, housing, and support. Also passed, the Sanctuary Promise Act prioritizes

community safety, human rights, and dignity. A sample of bills from this Session include:

- [HB 3265](#): Updates the Sanctuary Promise Act to protect immigrant and refugee communities and prioritize public safety, keeping local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities separate.
- [SB 778](#): Creates the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement that will advocate for and partner with statewide immigrant and refugee organizations to coordinate strategies, convene stakeholders, and provide policy support for communities across the state. This will ensure immigrant and refugee needs are reflected in the policy proposed.
- [SB 718](#): Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services to award grants to refugee resettlement agencies to provide specified services to refugees.
- [HB 2359](#): Ensures health care providers have adequate and accessible translation and interpretation services for limited-English Proficiency (LEP) patients and patients with hearing loss.
- [HB 2819](#) (Funded through [HB 2433](#)): Expands eligibility for Earned Income Tax Credit, a key anti-poverty tool, to individuals with individual taxpayer identification numbers in lieu of Social Security number.

Childcare & Infrastructure

A major priority this Session was affordable, accessible and culturally-specific child care for working and low-income families, BIPOC mothers and caregivers, as well as adequate compensation for providers. BIPOC mothers and caregivers have borne the brunt of job losses during COVID, typically take on more of the child care work at home, and are the backbone of the early child care workforce, [but are significantly underpaid](#). The child care bill, HB 3073, is a major investment and restructuring of how we approach child care in the state and will address inequities in the workforce. This is essential infrastructure to an equitable recovery. A sample of bills from this session include:

- [HB 3073](#): Makes child care more affordable and accessible for low-income and working families; ensures providers are adequately compensated for their work.

- [HB 2505](#): Establishes Child Welfare Equity Advisory Committee to address inequities, provide oversight, and prevent bias for the wellbeing and safety of children.
- [HB 3182](#): Ensures care for native children is culturally appropriate, incorporating certain provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act into Oregon laws.
- Broadband Internet (ARPA investments)

Preserving and Celebrating Culture & History

Hundreds of years of exploitation and racist assimilation policies have attempted to erase the cultures and histories of communities of color. Legislation that preserves and celebrates the state and country's diverse and rich culture was a key priority this year. Bills like HB 2526, that establish Indigenous People's Day, will help to recognize and memorialize the many histories, cultures, contributions and lives. A sample of bills from this session include:

- [HB 2526](#): Honors and recognizes the native people of the state, including the Oregon Tribes, addressing the U.S.'s revisionist colonial history and replacing Columbus Day.
- [HB 2052](#): Allows Native American students to wear tribal regalia and items of cultural significance at public schools, including high school graduation.
- [HB 2914](#): Establishes April as Arab American Heritage Month to celebrate and honor the contributions of Arab Americans and Oregonians.

Healthcare Access

Accessible, affordable, and preventative healthcare saves lives. Disparities in public health disproportionately impact BIPOC communities, making racism a public health crisis. This Session healthcare has been expanded to ensure Oregonians, no matter their immigration status, have the care they need. A sample of bills from this session include:

- [HB 3352](#): Cover All People - Expands healthcare coverage, affordability and accessibility to Oregonians, including DACA recipients.

- [HB 3159](#) Requires care organizations or health care providers to collect demographic data to help track disparities and inequities based on gender, race, ethnicity, disability, and sexual orientation.
- [HB 3294](#): Menstrual Dignity Act - Makes tampons and sanitary pads free at public schools, including colleges and universities, for students who menstruate.
- [SB 70](#): Establishes Regional Health Equity Coalitions (RHECs) to ensure community-based support for BIPOC and low-income communities and increase equity in healthcare.
- [SB 428](#): Extends timeline for the Universal Health Care Task Force to submit recommendations on equitable, affordable and accessible care to the Legislature.
- [HB 2359](#): Ensures health care providers have adequate and accessible translation and interpretation services for limited-English Proficiency (LEP) patients and patients with hearing loss.
- [HB 2362](#): Equal Care Act - Makes healthcare more affordable and protects healthcare services; puts patients and communities first by requiring an oversight committee for some healthcare system and hospital consolidations.