



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Office for Civil Rights

Enforcement Division • Humphrey Building
200 Independence Ave, S.W, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20201
Voice - (800) 368-1019 • TDD - (800) 537-7697
Fax - (202) 619-3818 • <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr>

July 30, 2026

Maureen S. Riordan
Chief Counsel
Equal Protection Project
18 Maple Avenue, #280
Barrington, RI 02806

Transmitted via email only: m.riordan@legalinsurrection.com

Re: OCR Transaction Number: 26-684779
Equal Protection Project vs Oregon Health and Science
University

Dear Maureen S. Riordan:

On May 20, 2026, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR)¹ received a complaint from the Equal Protection Project (the Complainant) alleging that Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) is in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI)² and/or Section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Section 1557).³

Specifically, the complaint alleges that OHSU engages in unlawful discrimination on the bases of race, color, and national origin in violation of Title VI and Section 1557 in its operation and promotion of six programs and/or scholarships (identified programs), including (1) The Jump Start Program;⁴ (2) The Equity Research Program;⁵ (3) The Center for Learner Diversity and Inclusion;⁶ (4) On Track OHSU!;⁷ (5) The Pay It Forward

¹ OCR enforces Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in the delivery of health and human services based on race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, religion, and the exercise of conscience. OCR also enforces the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules and 42 C.F.R. Part 2 (Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder Patient Records).

² 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) §§ 2000d *et seq.*, and its implementing regulations at 45 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Part 80.

³ 42 U.S.C. § 18116, as implemented by 45 C.F.R. Part 92.

⁴ <https://www.ohsu.edu/outreach/higher-education-programs>.

⁵ <https://www.ohsu.edu/diversity-equity-inclusion-belonging/equity-research-program>.

⁶ <https://www.ohsu.edu/diversity-equity-inclusion-belonging/connect-cldi>.

⁷ <https://www.ohsu.edu/education/track-ohsu>.

Mentorship Program;⁸ and (6) the HealthE STEPS Nursing Workforce Diversity Scholarships.⁹

OCR is responsible for investigating complaints of discrimination against recipients of Federal financial assistance (FFA) through HHS and for ensuring the compliance of those recipients with various civil rights regulations that OCR enforces. OCR has determined that this office has jurisdiction over your allegations pursuant to the regulations listed above. Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin. Section 1557 also prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in any health program or activity that receives FFA from HHS. Therefore, OCR will initiate an investigation. When OCR has reached a determination regarding your complaint, we will advise you of our findings.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact the Investigator assigned to your complaint, [REDACTED]. When contacting this office, please remember to include the transaction number, referenced above, that we have given this file.

Sincerely,



for

Jamie Rahn Ballay
Regional Manager

⁸ <https://www.ohsu.edu/school-of-medicine/md-program/pay-it-forward-mentorship-program>.

⁹ <https://web.archive.org/web/20260410145719/https://www.ohsu.edu/school-of-nursing/health-steps-nursing-workforce-diversity>.