

STATE & REGION

House approves bill to ban hairstyle discrimination

Legislation would apply to workplaces and public schools

Associated Press

SALEM — A measure passed by the Oregon House would prohibit public schools and employers from discriminating against hairstyles associated with race.

Following a 58-0 vote Wednesday, the bill now heads to the state Senate.

Oregon Public Broadcasting reports House Bill 2935 would expand existing laws against discrimination to explicitly include “physical characteristics that are historically

associated with race,” including hairstyles such as braids, locs and twists.

The bill is part of a national campaign that emerged after a Black high school wrestler in New Jersey was forced to cut off his dreadlocks before competing in 2018. Similar situations have emerged since, including an incident in March where a volleyball player at Portland’s Parkrose High School was required to cut beads from her hair in order to play.

“Oregon does not currently protect people from race-based hair discrimination even if the hairstyle is part of someone’s racial identity,” said state Rep. Janelle Bynum, D-Clacka-

mas, a chief sponsor of the bill. “This means that Black people can be denied opportunities for employment or professional advancement without consequence.”

Aside from expanding discrimination laws to protect hairstyles, HB 2935 also requires public school districts to include policies allowing students to wear religious clothing in competitive sports. The law, however, says districts can balance hairstyle and clothing accommodation with health and safety needs.

Versions of the bill have passed in nine states, including California and Washington, according to the coalition pushing the policy.



Thanks to Our Volunteers!

One of the most powerful forces in the world is an individual who has realized their power to make an impact.

The Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman would like to thank our Certified Ombudsman volunteers. Our volunteers are extraordinary people who dedicate their time, talent, and voice to meet the critical needs of Oregonians living in long-term care.



To learn more about becoming a volunteer or to report a concern, please visit www.oltco.org



Comedian will get \$35,000 settlement in border patrol stop

BY LIZZY ACKER

The Oregonian

Comedian Mohanad Elshieky was on his way back to Portland from a set at Washington State University in 2019 when he was taken off the bus by U.S. Customs and Border Protection during a stop in Spokane.

On Twitter, Elshieky wrote that agents “took my documents and interrogated me for around 20 mins then claimed my papers were fake and that I’m ‘illegal.’”

Now, over two years later, Elshieky is one of two men who will receive a settlement after similar treatment by federal agents at the same bus station in Spokane.

Elshieky and Andres Sosa Segura — who filed separate federal lawsuits alleging the violation of their rights — will receive \$35,000 apiece from the federal government, according to a news release

from the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project.

Agents demanded Sosa Segura’s “papers” during a stop in Spokane while he was on his way home to Montana in 2017, according to the news release.

For Elshieky, who moved to the U.S. from Libya in 2014 and was granted asylum in 2018, said the incident shook his sense of safety in the government.

Elshieky now lives in New York and works on the TV show “Full Frontal with Sam Bee.”

In a tweet about the settlement Thursday, Elshieky said he was glad the case is finally over. “Maybe next time they should refrain from harassing immigrants,” he said.

Find it all online
bendbulletin.com

If your Medicare Advantage plan is leaving the area, Humana can help

You can enjoy all the benefits of Original Medicare and more—like:

- \$29 monthly plan premium
- \$10 copay for each primary care visit
- \$0 copay for testing and treatment services for COVID-19
- \$20 acupuncture copay
- Prescription drug coverage, with \$0 copay on Tier 1 and Tier 2 drugs for 90-day mail order through Humana Pharmacy®*
- SilverSneakers® fitness program

It can be pretty upsetting when your health plan leaves town. But Humana’s here and can help you get a Medicare Advantage plan that meets your needs.

Humana®

*Other pharmacies are available in our network.

Humana is a Medicare Advantage HMO, PPO and PFFS organization with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in any Humana plan depends on contract renewal. Applicable to HumanaChoice H5216-044 (PPO). **At Humana, it is important you are treated fairly.** Humana Inc. and its subsidiaries comply with applicable Federal civil rights laws and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religion. English: ATTENTION: If you do not speak English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call **1-877-320-1235** (TTY:711). **Español (Spanish):** ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al **1-877-320-1235** (TTY:711). **繁體中文 (Chinese):** 注意: 如果您使用繁體中文, 您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 **1-877-320-1235** (TTY:711).



Call a licensed Humana sales agent



RYAN FOX
458-206-9942

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
rfox5@humana.com
humana.com/rfox