

To: Senate Education Committee members

RE. SENATE BILL 623 –THE COVID RECOVERY AND WORKFORCE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2021

Todos Juntos is a Community-based organization with a focus and expertise on serving disenfranchised communities. We provide services to children, youth and families in rural Clackamas County and have full time staff housed in (9) schools located in Molalla, Canby, Sandy, and Estacada. Todos Juntos provides social, emotional, and academic programming to over 1800 people annually of which 35% are Latinx. Much of our work is dedicated to empowering students and families to be successful and we are in an ongoing partnership with the Clackamas County Workforce and OregonAsk to create a “Service to Careers’ curriculum model to be used at the middle and high schools.

Todos Juntos acknowledges that we are living through the steepest economic downturn since the great depression. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unemployment claims to reach nearly 400,000 and experts predict the state will not return to pre-pandemic job levels until 2025.

Todos juntos is in support of SB 623 and the creation of a framework to ensure the public workforce system is responsive to the needs of individuals and communities most impacted by COVID-19, supports local engagement and priorities, and sets the stage for continuous improvement of public workforce investments and programs.