



## LatinoNetwork

**Testimony of Anthony Castaneda, Policy Manager,  
Regarding SB 227: Relating to Ethnic Studies  
Senate Committee on Education  
February 10th, 2021**

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our experiences and advocate for our community. **We join the Oregon Partners for Education Justice in voicing our support for SB 227 and investments in the Educator Advancement Council.**

**Latino Network is a culturally specific nonprofit serving Latino children, youth, and families in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties.** Every year our organization provides transformative services to thousands of Latinos in the areas of education and mentorship, leadership development, and family stability. We support families before, during, and after school through various programs.

**SB 227 is a step forward in integrating and embracing the rich histories, contributions, and perspectives of historically erased ethnic and social minority groups.** This is essential for all students from our youngest children to our young adults. A comprehensive and inclusive curriculum would instill a sense of pride in historically marginalized student populations and would improve educational outcomes. Many Black students, Indigenous students, and students of color currently do not see themselves represented in their schools or school curriculum.

**SB 227 prepares Oregon's public education system to teach an increasingly diverse population.** A current portrait of Oregon's children shows that this is the most diverse generation of children in our state's history. Today, Latinos represent nearly one in four children in Oregon. The funds for the Educator Advancement Council will provide professional training for the ethnic studies standards adopted by the Department of Education.

We ask you to honor the histories, contributions, and perspectives of ethnic and social minority groups by supporting and funding SB 227 and the Educator Advancement Council. We owe it to young learners.

Thank you for your time and leadership.