



Oregon Alliance for Education Equity (OAE)

April 15, 2013

Re: Testimony in support of HB 3232 and HB 3233

Dear Chair Gelser and members of the House Education Committee,

On behalf of The Oregon Alliance for Education Equity (OAE), we support House Bill 3232 and House Bill 3233.

OAE represents over 20 culturally specific, English Language Learners (ELLs), and advocacy organizations throughout Oregon. The mission of OAE is to ensure that schools promote equity, eliminate disparities, and value diversity so that *all* students are prepared to become successful adults.

If Oregon is going to remain relevant and economically viable there must be policies and practices in place to narrow the achievement gap that exists between historically underserved populations and white Oregonians on the key measures and increase levels of educational attainment and employability for all Oregonians.

House Bills 3232 and 3233 are investments targeted to the areas that give our students the greatest boost – early childhood learning, intervention for schools that are struggling and helping students become engaged, excited and prepared for their lives beyond high school. Oregon has a teacher workforce that currently does not represent the diversity of the student population. We can change that and it starts by ensuring our fiscal priorities match our education goals, language and commitment to academic success for all children.

Again, OAE supports specific key investments that the Governor identified in his 2013 budget. We endorse funding efforts that support the necessary training of the existing teacher workforce – both in cultural competence and strategies to increase student success – and efforts to diversify the workforce to suit the needs of an increasingly-diverse student population in Oregon.

Thank you for your work on this important issue.

Mark Jackson
Co-Chair (Spring 2013)
markj@reapusa.org
503.341.6161

Kim Melton
Co-Chair (Spring 2013)
kmelton@stand.org
503.914.4672

Oregon Alliance for Education Equity (OAE) Steering Committee: Mark Jackson, Reaching and Empowering All People (REAP), Kim Melton, Stand for Children, Inger McDowell, Coalition of Communities of Color, Jason Trombley, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, Eduardo Angulo, Salem-Keizer Coalition for Equality, Becky Straus, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Oregon, Damon Fournier, Chalkboard Project and April Campbell, Oregon Government to Government Tribal Education Cluster

Oregon Alliance for Education Equity (OAE) Members: Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality, APANO, NAACP Branches from Salem-Keizer, Corvallis, & Eugene/Springfield, Centro Cultural of Washington County, Latino Network of Portland, Portland Urban League, Unete from Medford, Stand for Children, Chalkboard Project, REAP Inc., Portland Teachers Program, Oregon Government to Government Tribal Education Cluster, Oregon Indian Education Association, Casa Latinos Unidos de Benton County, Adelante Mujeres, Siwash Resources, Oregon Commission on Black Affairs, Lyn and Benton Hispanic Advisory Committee, UNA VOZ: Latino Leadership and Advocacy Inc. & American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Oregon.