



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

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Testimony in support of SB 755, May 7, 2013 Joint Education Committee

Co-Chairs Sen. Monroe and Rep. Komp, and members Sen. Edwards, Sen. Girod, Rep. Frederick and Rep. Sprenger:

The Chairs of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions are submitting testimony in support of SB 755. Access to high quality education for all Oregonians is a strategic priority of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions. This includes the under-representation of communities of color among the teaching and administrative staff of Oregon's schools and the overrepresentation of these communities among students who drop out or whose parents who have not been fully engaged in their kids' educations.

We believe that the Minority Teacher Act of 1991 has always been on the right track to make a difference for students of color and their families through positive role models, cultural appropriateness, and other proven models of engagement and excellence in education. Its shortcomings in reaching target outcomes stems from a number of reasons, but we believe indifference cannot be one of them. We applaud the legislature for its rededication to the principles of the Minority Teacher Act and urge you to consider positively the revitalizing of the Act with the provisions SB 755.

SB 755 contributes to the needed success of the Minority Teachers Act in key ways:

- It moves the policy oversight and reporting to the Oregon Education Investment Board, which is developing a track record for keeping key equity pieces in the policy spotlight.
- It requires the next report to be produced in the summer of 2014, giving time for newly enacted policy to continue attracting and building Oregon's diverse education workforce while gathering needed data for policy considerations.
- It provides a useful expansion of the minority teacher definition to include those whose first language is not English.

We urge your positive consideration of SB 755.

Stephen Ying, Chair, OCAPIA

Isaac Dixon, Chair, OCBA

Andrea Cano, Chair, OCHA

Stephanie Vardavas, Chair, OCFW

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