



May 7, 2013

Co-Chairs Senator Rod Monroe and Representative Betty Komp  
Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

RE: SB 755

Co-Chairs Monroe, Co-Chair Komp and Members of the Committee,

The Chalkboard Project lends its support to Senate Bill 755, which updates the Minority Teacher Act and establishes a new goal for adding diversity to the teacher workforce and teacher preparation programs. We also support the -3 amendments that place responsibility for producing the required report with the Oregon Education Investment Board rather than the Education and Workforce Policy Advisor.

It is clear that we are not doing enough to ensure that the diversity in our student population is mirrored by diversity in the teacher workforce. Setting a new goal will bring increased attention to the issue and give the state a metric by which to judge its future efforts.

We believe that recruiting a diverse workforce is one part of a comprehensive strategy to meet the needs of ALL of Oregon students. We will also need strategies for retaining diverse teachers, training for all educators in culturally responsive teaching, and a system for sharing best practices to close achievement gaps.

Given that the minority student population continues to grow at a rapid pace, it is imperative that our schools and our educators are prepared to meet the needs of diverse students. Oregon is one of a few states where the achievement gap has actually gotten worse in the last decade. We must act swiftly and with intention to reverse that trend.

Chalkboard supports SB 755 and the -3 amendments and we look forward to partnering on additional efforts to meet the needs of all of Oregon's students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Hildick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sue Hildick  
President  
Chalkboard Project

221 NW Second Avenue, Suite 203  
Portland, Oregon 97209

voice: 503.542.4325 fax: 971.230.1274

[www.chalkboardproject.org](http://www.chalkboardproject.org)