



To: House Higher Education, Innovation and Workforce Development Committee
From: Oregon Health Equity Alliance
Date: March 23, 2015
Re: HB 3308

Chair Read, Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA) would like to express our support for HB 3308. OHEA represents a collective effort of 37 member organizations who work together to make Oregon a more equitable place for all. Our coalition believes every Oregonian should have an equal chance to achieve their full health potential, and that is why we are supporting HB 3308.

This important bill will address the disparities faced by Oregon students in higher education, especially for our traditionally marginalized, underserved and underrepresented communities. HB 3308 will direct the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to convene a new work group, to analyze and make recommendations on how to address disparities in higher education among underserved and underrepresented communities.

HB 3308 will directly impact people of color, people with disabilities, individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, and people whose first language is not English. Higher education and student success is vital for *all* Oregonian families, and this bill will promote equity for all of our students.

OHEA urges your full support of HB 3308. Thank you for your commitment to our communities.

Joseph Santos-Lyons, APANO, OHEA co-Chair
Midge Purcell, Urban League of Portland, OHEA co-Chair