



House Committee on Rules

Representative Jodi Hack

House District 19

May 8, 2015

Good afternoon Chair Hoyle, members of the Committee.

For the record my name is Jodi Hack, and I am the State Representative for House District 19 which includes south Salem, Aumsville and Turner. Speaker Kotek is unable to be here, so she asked that I come before you today to testify on behalf of House Bill 2016. Dorothy from her office is also here to testify and I am sure she will be able to cover the specifics of the bill even better than I.

I Co-Chief Sponsored this bill because of the great work I believe it will accomplish. The bill directs the Department of Education to develop and implement a statewide education plan for educationally disadvantaged black or African-American students.

In the 2013-14 school year, 52.6 percent of black or African-American elementary students met reading achievement targets, compared with 70.5 percent of all students. 38.9 percent of black or African-American elementary school students met math achievement targets, compared with 62 percent of all elementary students. These are just a few statistics you will see in the -1 Amendment supporting the need for this bill. Within this bill there are strategies that the plan must meet.

The Department must include strategies to:

Ensure these students enter kindergarten ready to learn;

Address the disproportionate rate of disciplinary incidents for these students compared to other students in the education system;

Increase parental engagement;

Increases the engagement of these students in educational activities before and after school;

Increase the number of these students who earn a high school diploma, a modified diploma or an extended diploma who enroll in post-secondary education;

Ensure that these students in grades 6-12 who had not considered enrolling in post-secondary education are moved toward and are able to access post-secondary educational opportunities that fit their interests and abilities; and

Ensure that when these students do choose to go on to post-secondary education that they are given the supports they need to be successful.

If you take a look at the -1 Amendment – Page 3 you can see more of the strategies that will be used.

I believe this bill is a step forward in providing opportunity for black and African-American students to be successful and to receive the support they desperately need.

Thank you for your time and consideration.