

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
1819 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97201
O 503.302.9725/F 503.473.8519
Email: oaco.mail@oregon.gov

Informational Hearing: SB 215 Workgroup
Senate Education Committee, June 9, 2015

Chair Roblan, Vice Chair Knopp, and Committee members:

The Oregon Commissions on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA), Black Affairs (OCBA), The Commission for Women (OCFW) and my own Commission have greatly appreciated being invited to be part of the discussion as SB215 workgroup members and to talk with you today about the future of the workgroup as the OEIB comes into closer collaboration with other education coordinating boards and education funding. OCHA Commissioner Diego Hernandez has diligently represented all four of the Advocacy Commissions on the workgroup and has kept each of the Commissions informed and engaged in its important work.

As you consider the future of the SB 215 workgroup, the Chairs of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions want to share with you our founding belief that equity in education means the difference between the overall success or failure for Oregon schools. Accordingly, it is important that we maintain this focus in essential policy and funding discussions at every level in Oregon, including the next assignments of the SB 215 workgroup. We believe that equity in education is determined by how Oregon invests in the learning of all its students, who is engaged in key decisions, what we measure, what data we collect and how we hold ourselves accountable.

We encourage this Work Group to further build equity into all of its future considerations, assure the importance of equity in the work of the Chief Education Officer and craft it into goals and statements of purpose, into funding consideration, and tie the structure of education in Oregon to the outcomes our communities need. We also underscore the importance of our priority of having communities of color, women and Native Americans represented in key positions within education and within its workgroups and associated advisory groups.

We understand that alignment and focus on equity is essential to SB 215 and its potential legacy in Oregon. If equity is not at the core of all we do in education and in this workgroup, and if improvement in outcomes for struggling students is not the measure of our success we have small hope of closing the achievement gap and increasing graduation rates. We support you in your work and offer help in any way.

Sincerely,

Stephen Ying, Chair, OCAPIA

Alberto Moreno, Chair

James I Manning, Jr., Chair, OCBA

Stephanie Vardavas, Chair

OR Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Stephen Ying, Chair
Mari Watanabe, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Sen. Michael Dembrow
Rep. Gene Whisnaut

OR Commission on Black Affairs

James I. Manning Jr., Chair
James Morris, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Sen. Rod Monroe
Rep. Lew Frederick

OR Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Alberto Moreno, Chair
John Haroldson, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Sen. Chip Shields
Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson

OR Commission for Women

Stephanie Vardavas, Chair
Jeanne Burch, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson
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