

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Commission for Women
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
1819 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97201
O 503.302.9725/F 503.473.8519
Email: oaco.mail@oregon.gov
Website: www.oregon.gov/Women

Testimony in Support of HB 2968B
June 30, 2015, HR A
Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

Chair Hass, Vice Chair Boquist, and Senators Baertschiger, Edwards and Riley:

The Oregon Commission on Women supports HB 2968B which requires the Chief Education Officer to establish a work group to review and report on how school funding for students from families in poverty relates to their educational success. We believe this represents an important opportunity to consider needed review with an equity lens on the ways we invest in students who struggle with the effects of poverty and how we tie that investment to their success. We believe that a workgroup that has the active involvement of representatives from the communities affected is the right first step.

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions have representation on the legislative committee currently considering the sunseting of the OEIB. We have been encouraged with the ability of such inclusive reviews to produce improvements and outcomes for communities of color and others that would not occur without their involvement. We encourage the Chief Education Officer to take on a thorough review of State supports to improved education experience for all in Oregon using an equity lens for all aspects of its funding and measures of success.

HB 2968B provides for such a review and opportunity to address disparities in an inclusive manner. We further believe that the recommendations of any such group are better crafted and more assured of success if those most affected are intentionally part of the work group itself. We encourage you to pass this bill and look to us to support your efforts as the Chief Education Officer selects members of the work group.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Vardavas, Chair

OR Commission for Women

Chair:

Stephanie Vardavas

Vice Chair:

Jeanne Burch

Commissioners:

Dr. Doris Cancel-Tirado
Megan Jacquot
Sheri Malstrom
Jessica Rodriguez-Montegna
Dr. Barbara Spencer
Stephanie Swanson

Legislative Liaisons:

Sen. Laurie Monnes
Anderson
Rep. Betty Komp

Staff:

Lucy Baker, Administrator
Nancy Kramer, Executive Asst.