



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Chief Education Office

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Honorable Margaret Doherty
Chair, House Education Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Doherty and Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to offer support for HB 4033. The language in this bill includes a more specific reference to the Educator Equity Act within the charge given to the Network for Quality Teaching and Learning to strengthen educator preparation programs.

This addition is congruent with the intent of the annual report that our office provides legislators documenting Oregon's progress in recruiting, preparing, hiring, retaining, and advancing an educator workforce that better reflects the demographics of our K-12 student population. It is also reflected in the work of the Educator Equity Advisory Group that meets monthly to:

- Ensure that the voices of culturally and linguistically diverse Oregonians are engaged in examining root causes, current assets, and needed changes in policy and practices;
- Review progress and results from funded state investments intended to recruit, prepare, retain, and advance Oregon's educator workforce; and
- Recommend future investments for the state that can improve students' access to more culturally and linguistically diverse educators

As we celebrate the added diversity of students in our K-12 classrooms, Oregon must continue to ensure that all teachers are prepared to teach in culturally responsive ways, able to address race-related classroom situations and reflect on their own relational practices as they engage with students and their families. To that end, the Chief Education Office is helping sponsor an Educator Preparation and Retention Equity Summit in April (see flyer) to meet with educator preparation deans, faculty and staff across the state along with their school partners and community leaders regarding:

- Their current efforts to prepare a culturally and linguistically diverse and responsive educator workforce,
- Lagging barriers that are impeding progress in Oregon,
- Emerging practices that are making a difference in preparing all educators to be culturally responsive, and
- Cross agency policies and resources needed to support this work.

We welcome your support for additional emphasis on this important professional development need.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Capps
Acting Chief Education Officer