

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

I respectfully ask for your support and recommend approval of HB4033, which amends ORS 342.950 to include advancing the goals of the Educators Equity Act through increasing cultural competence of Oregon educators and supporting culturally relevant instructional practices. There are several reasons for supporting this bill.

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 3232 and House Bill 3233, which will provide targeted investments to support Oregon's students and educators. The strategic investments were designed to leverage funds to community partnerships to help turn around under-performing schools, and improve student outcomes in our state.

In 2014, The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) made Culturally Responsive Pedagogy and Practices a priority by funding projects in amounts ranging from \$78,500-\$200,000 to eight programs to create opportunities and support for districts, post-secondary institutions, and community based organizations to partner in efforts to close opportunity gaps through Culturally Responsive Pedagogy and Practices (CRPP).

The funded initiatives have produced many commendable outcomes that not only support the Oregon Equity Lens, but have put Oregon on the map as one of the leading states that are critically invested in equity for students. The linking of these efforts across the state is a signal of growing coherence and coordination.

Students across the state have been empowered and teachers and administrators are embracing the tenets of cultural responsiveness and engaging in authentic and honest discussion of the implications of culturally responsive practices within their educational systems.

This Bill will put a focus back on CRPP.

Thank you for your support and all that you do for our State.

Best Regards,

Karanja Crews, M.E.d
Director
Teaching With Purpose