

**Kate Brown**  
Governor



**Oregon Commission on Black Affairs**  
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"  
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Testimony in Support of HB 4033  
February 17, 2016, Hearing Room B, 3 pm  
Senate Committee on Education

Chair Roblan, Vice-Chairs Knopp and Baertschiger, and Senators Beyer, Gelser, Hass, and Kruse:

The Oregon Commission for Black Affairs, supports the passage of HB 4033 the bill that gives the Educators Equity Act the enhancement needed to reduce disparities in the educational system by creating the Network of Quality Teaching and Learning.

This bill seeks to establish the Network of Quality Teaching and Learning to look at how students of families of low socioeconomic status, diverse racial and cultural backgrounds, and limited English proficiency are being treated differently. Studies show that that these communities have disproportionate referrals to special education services, high rates of discipline referrals, suspensions and expulsions. Students deserve to have a better experience in schools and with educators that embraces evidence based practices such as cultural competency training, hiring culturally diverse teachers, and teaching of diverse histories in schools.

The Commission on Black Affairs understands that every child deserves access to a good, non-biased, and healthy educational experience through Oregon's public schools. That vision is not always in place in our public schools and this bill seeks to allow resources to be directed to our educators and the Network of Quality Teaching and Learning to support struggling programs with cultural competency, a diverse workforce, and inclusive curriculum.

OCBA believes that HB 4033 Educator Equity Training is a step in the right direction. We thank you for your positive consideration to allow the resources to be made available and ensure that all of our kids in public schools in or state have the same opportunity to achieve.

Sincerely,

James Manning, Chair

**OR Commission on Black Affairs**

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