

# PORTLAND CHINATOWN HISTORY FOUNDATION

---

Oregon State Legislature  
Senate Committee on Education  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

March 13, 2017

To the Oregon State Senate Committee on Education:

The Board of Directors of the Portland Chinatown History Foundation respectfully submit this letter in support of Senate Bill 280 which seeks funding for Oregon Social Studies to be inclusive of all Oregonians as mandated under Oregon Law 329.492.

SB 280 takes the right steps toward ensuring that Oregon schools develop and implement history curricula that more accurately reflects the broad and varying experiences of Oregonians of all colors and backgrounds. Developing a curricula that is wholly inclusive of Oregon's communities of color is beneficial to *all* Oregon students. Such a curriculum places emphasis on the diversity of experiences. In doing so, it reinforces the notion that history is not a straight line of progress, but a complicated and multidirectional process. For students of color, the act of comprehensively telling the history and contributions of all of Oregon's racial and ethnic communities will yield a positive impact on students' understanding of their own identity, affirm their belonging within the citizenry, and help cultivate their responsibilities as citizens.

As an organization dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of Portland's historic Chinatowns, PCHF strongly believes that SB 280 will be a great educational boon to Oregon and we hope that the Oregon Senate will vote in favor of this important bill.

Sincerely,

Terry Chung  
President, Portland Chinatown History Foundation Board of Directors

Sarah Chung  
Norman Gholston  
Marcus Lee  
Norman Locke  
Jacqueline Peterson-Loomis  
Bertha Saiget  
Fred Wong  
Gloria Wong

*Portland Chinatown History Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization*