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**Subject:** Supporting HB 2016 - REAP Inc.  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 15, 2017 10:04:25 AM

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To Ways & Means Education Subcommittee.

I want to offer written support of House Bill 2016 - African American Black Student Success Plan

As the executive director of REAP Inc. ([www.reapusa.org](http://www.reapusa.org)), our multicultural youth leadership organization is a grantee of HB 2016 funding.

HB 2016 funding has allowed our organization to boost student academic achievement and improve school climate over the past year.

Our project funded by HB 2016 has implemented a system of support for African American/Black students in school districts who prior to REAP had NO services targeting this specific student demographic.

Our services have ranged from restorative practices, school transition support, student leadership, culturally responsive professional development for educators, parent and community engagement.

Through HB 2016 funding REAP is pioneering critical interventions to support African American/Black students in Centennial and Beaverton School Districts and expanding work within the David Douglas School District. I can't begin to express the tremendous impact our programs are having on students and the overall climate of the schools we serve.

We have seen a reduction in student discipline rates, increase in data related "on time for graduation", student leadership engagement and parent/community engagement.

As a multicultural youth leadership program, our program staff are building a bridge of equity and inclusion in the schools that is undeniably impacting teaching and learning to ensure all students are college and career ready.

It is this type of school/community partnership that HB 2016 is supporting. Please increase HB 2016 funding or continue funding it at the same service level.

Also, please direct the Oregon Dept. of Education to NOT have a competitive RFP process but continue funding current HB 2016 grantees like REAP that are supporting districts who without REAP have no other resources to support the student demographic we are serving. The work REAP has begun needs to continue to ensure long term impact.

A reduction in HB 2016 funding would only stagnant and reverse all gains made by REAP and other organizations funded by HB 2016.

Below are a few success stories that highlight REAP's impact through HB 2016 funding

(scroll down) in this current school year.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,  
Mark

Mark Jackson  
Executive Director  
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The Next Wave Of Leaders



### **Why is REAP's work important?**

According to the SWIS Data Report at Parklane Elementary REAP has contributed to an upwards of 70% decrease in disciplinary and behavioral issues. Prior to REAP the school administered 1074 student referrals (2015-16). Since REAP, the school has administered only 213 (2016-17) and only administered 1 student suspension this year.

Below are two emails from school staff that offer anecdotal stories that further capture the impact REAP is having on students and school climate. After reading both emails I'm sure you'll better understand why HB 2016 funding is helping REAP make a tremendous difference in lives of students and schools.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brian Grose** <[brian\\_grose@csd28j.org](mailto:brian_grose@csd28j.org)>

Date: Fri, Mar 3, 2017 at 6:49 AM

Subject: REAP and thanks for the good work.

To: Nicole Johnson <[nicole\\_johnson@csd28j.org](mailto:nicole_johnson@csd28j.org)>

My name is Brian Grose and I am one of the security people at Centennial High School. Prior to working at CHS, I was a Portland Police Detective for 26 years. I have been involved in numerous programs designed to help youth and I am impressed with REAP at Centennial.

I know almost all the kids in REAP and many for almost four years. The kids are excited to attend activities and meetings concerning REAP. Many of them want to talk to either Daniel or Nicole when they are in crisis. I often refer kids to the program due to knowing it has been a positive influence for students here.

I have seen students who had little interest in attending college who are suddenly very excited about attending and are more focused. Most kids involved in REAP at CHS are great but have issues from their past and current life. Daniel and Nicole both model behavior and listen to the kids. Both do a great job of helping kids advocate for themselves.

Like I said, I have been a part of and witnessed several programs for youth. REAP is one of the most effective I have seen. I have also seen programs come and go and I really hope REAP is a part of CHS for a very long time.

Thanks for your time.

Brian Grose

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From: **Ruth Thompson** <[ruth\\_thompson@csd28j.org](mailto:ruth_thompson@csd28j.org)>

Date: Mon, Feb 13, 2017 at 3:37 PM

Subject: REAP at the middle school?

To: Mark Jackson <[markj@reapusa.org](mailto:markj@reapusa.org)>

Hello, Mark! I hope you are well. I am so grateful to be working with Benjamin and Kalie at Parklane and was raving about how helpful REAP's presence has been this year to Megan Connelly, my fellow school psych at the middle school. She is interested in talking with you about how she would go about advocating for REAP at the middle school. Would you mind if I passed along your contact info to her or hers to you so you can connect? Thanks so much, Mark. I truly hope REAP and Parklane's partnership can continue for the foreseeable future. **Kalie and Benjamin are doing the deep work that would not be happening otherwise and I am deeply grateful for their wisdom and warmth every day. Take the best of care, Ruth**

Ruth Thompson, MS

School Psychologist

Parklane Elementary

Lynch View Elementary

Sent from my iPhone