

From: REAP
To: Sen.RodMonroe@state.or.us; rep.barbarasmithwarner@state.or.us; Sen.ChuckThomsen@state.or.us; Rep.Hernandez; Rep.JohnLively@state.or.us; Rep.JulieParrish@state.or.us; Rep.Whisnant
Cc: [JWMED Exhibits](#); [Emily O'Hara](#); [Iris Bell](#)
Subject: Supporting SB 5516/5517 - OYDC
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 9:27:32 AM

To Ways & Means Education Subcommittee.

I want to offer written support of Senate Bills 5516 & 5517 - Oregon Youth Development Council.

As the executive director of REAP Inc, our multicultural youth leadership organization is a grantee of OYDC funding.

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

Our youth and innovation project funded by OYDC developed and administered a student-led school climate survey at David Douglas High School to assess the climate of the school through an equity lens.

This assessment tool has led to a paradigm shift in educational practice and policy at the school level. Several additional school districts in the Portland Metro have adopted this assessment tool to elevate student voice and implement culturally responsive professional development within their schools in partnership with REAP.

It is this type of innovation that SB 5516/5517 will continue to support. Please increase OYDC funding or continue funding at the same service level. A reduction in OYDC funding would only stagnant and reverse all gains made by REAP and other organizations funded by OYDC.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,
Mark

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