

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
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OCBA Testimony in Support of HB 3266
April 13, 2017, 1 pm, HR 343
House Committee on Judiciary

Chair Barker, Vice Chairs Olson and Williamson and Representatives Gorsek, Greenlick, Lininger, Post, Sanchez, Sprenger, Stark and Vial:

The Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA) supports HB 3266 which builds on the good work of the 2013 legislature prohibiting use of restraints on K-12 students. It provides the necessary clarification that the prohibition on use of restraints includes enforcement officers, and the -1 and -2 amendments provide further wording that allows officers to use their discretion in some additional circumstances to maintain safety.

The use of handcuffs, belly chains and other physical restraints on children is disturbing and leaves a lasting mark on them. For those students put in restraints, seen by their peers, and teachers, it may leave damage unlikely ever to be undone. Multiply that impact further for students of color who are challenged regularly by negative perceptions and are more than twice as likely to be singled out for discipline that is tolerated or dealt with differently in students from the majority culture. The evidence shows this long term damage as students fail to return to school after such an interaction with law enforcement leading to isolation, and increased risk for dropping out.

We believe that HB 3266 -2 is an important step in making the learning environment safe, respectful, and successful for K-12 students and their families Thank you for your positive consideration of HB 3266.

Sincerely,

Chair, James Morris

Vice Chair, Robin Morris Collin

OR Commission on Black Affairs

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Vice Chair:

Robin Morris Collin

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Mariotta Gary-Smith

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