



May 30, 2017

Dear Chair Monroe, Chair Smith-Warner, and Members of the Committee,

We, the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC), are writing to express our strong support for HB 2845- convening an advisory group to develop and adopt statewide Ethnic Studies standards. We believe this legislation is the right step toward improving understanding across communities while also addressing achievement gaps for children of color in Oregon.

The Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) is an alliance of 19 culturally-specific and pan-immigrant and refugee community based organizations working to advance racial justice by addressing socioeconomic disparities, institutional racism, and inequity in services. In this challenging climate, our communities are facing heightened levels of discrimination and racial intolerance. Improving knowledge of different racial and cultural groups will create better learning environments for all children. We also believe that improving educational outcomes should be a top priority. As Oregon becomes increasingly diverse, integrating ethnic studies standards for K-12 students will lead to relevant and engaging curriculum for an increasingly diverse student body.

The CCC hopes you will join us in our collective efforts to improve racial equity in Oregon by supporting HB 2845.

Sincerely,

Amanda Manjarrez

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Manjarrez", is written over a light gray background.

Advocacy Director

