



February 7, 2017

Oregon Senate Education Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

To the Senate Education Committee:

As a leading scholar of culturally responsive practice work, I'm proud to support Teaching With Purpose as a consortium member. SB 204 will move the dial for more equitable change in our educational system.

Research suggests that when schools become more culturally responsive, they are more likely to actualize equity in education.

Culturally responsive schools, to enhance the school's culture of collaboration, work with families and communities for the sake of creating safe learning environments and advancing high-quality school climates and cultures.

I support Teaching with Purpose to help strengthen and enhance existing evidence-based culturally responsive practices that improve student achievement, improve school climate, and provide student and parent voices.

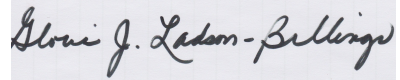
I'm excited to work in partnership with Teaching with Purpose to help to bring a meaningful systematic framework of culturally responsive practice into the state or Oregon.

My work represents more than 25 years of systematic study of classrooms and schools where teachers have been able to mitigate the disparities that exist between Black, Latin@, Native, and immigrant students and their White middle income counterparts. This work is known as culturally relevant pedagogy.

We understand that held beliefs shape policies and practices.

As a scholar in the field of pushing equity in education, I support this bill that will establish a systematic approach to making our schools more equitable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature reads "Gloria J. Ladson-Billings" in a cursive script.

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