



February 14, 2017

Dear Senate Education Committee:

The purpose of this testimony is to request your approval of SB204 which directs ODE, in a collaborative partnership with the Teaching with Purpose Consortium (TWPC), to establish a culturally responsive practices certification program for school districts and educators across the Oregon. As you are aware, Oregon is a state that has many laws that address equity in education; however, there has been little accountability associated with these laws. SB 204 will create a certification and training and accountability program for school districts and public educators that will ensure that Culturally Responsive Practices (CRP) are employed.

This work cannot be done within the silos of school districts; rather the work must be done collaboratively in order to create educational climates and cultures conducive to the necessary change and growth. By appointing the TWPC as the certifying agency there will be assurances in place that the work is done in a cohesive manner and the measurements can be consistent across the state.

In a partnership with the TWPC the Center for Culturally Responsive Practices (CCRP) at Eastern Oregon University (EOU) will serve as the research center and fiscal agent of the work. CCRP will provide evidence based research support for CRP. The center will aide in certification process through research based strategies and training supports that will assist school districts and educators in their development as culturally responsive educators and leaders. This work reinforces the power that equitable education can have in changing the educational climate that has historically oppressed culturally and linguistically diverse students,

Funding for this initiative will enable our organizations to provide training and foster strong partnerships with the goal of creating continuity between home and school, increases student success in the classroom and create and create equity within the education systems across the state. Without continued support, funding, and accountability the work cannot continue at the level that is needed. The formation of a certification process will be a means to ensure accountability for equity and produce forward momentum in the transformation our education system into one that is more equitable and generates genuine change.

I kindly urge you to pass SB204 with full funding. Thank you for all that you do to continually support an equitable education system in the state of Oregon.

Respectfully,

Tawnya L. Lubbes  
Assistant Professor of Education  
Center for Culturally Responsive Practices Director  
Oregon Teacher Pathway Program Director  
Eastern Oregon University