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Oregon Senate
Education Committee

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Dear members of the Oregon Senate Education Committee,

As a nationally recognized and respected educator on issues of racial and cultural equity and the importance of culturally-responsive educational practice, I wish to wholeheartedly add my voice to the many others who have been impressed and inspired by the work of Teaching With Purpose. Having collaborated with TWP for several years now, and seen the amazing work they are doing with teachers, administrators and students, I firmly believe that SB 204 can make a significant difference in the fight for greater educational equity in Oregon.

Those of us in this field are well aware that when educators present their students with culturally responsive materials and pedagogical approaches, those students attain greater levels of success, and outcome disparities between racial and cultural groups can be significantly diminished. Schools that embrace culturally responsive practices are by their very nature more collaborative – with parents and entire communities – and seek to educate the whole child, meeting them where they are and helping them strive to attain ever-higher levels of knowledge, competence and confidence.

Of all the programs I have seen around the country that seek to promote culturally-responsive classroom practices, Teaching With Purpose stands at the very pinnacle in terms of their commitment to this evidence-based approach to educating students and improving school climate. Having worked on equity initiatives with dozens of school districts, hundreds of schools and thousands of professional educators over a quarter-century, there are few programs I have encountered that so completely embrace a comprehensive approach to culturally responsive practices as does Teaching With Purpose.

I am excited to continue working in partnership with Teaching with Purpose to help bring ever-greater equity to Oregon schools and communities. I sincerely hope that lawmakers will see the value in TWP's efforts, which we in the educational equity community can so readily discern.

Sincerely,

Tim Wise

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