

TEACHERS COLLEGE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
PROGRAM IN SCIENCE EDUCATION

February 10, 2017

Dear Oregon Senate Education Committee:

My name is Christopher Emdin, and I currently serve as Associate Professor of Science Education and Associate Director of the Institute For Urban and Minority Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. For the last decade, I have conducted research on the effectiveness of culturally responsive teaching and practice across a number of educational settings. In that time, every research measure imaginable indicates that this type of practice is under-focused upon in schools and highly effective in transforming teaching and learning for all youth.

Given the outcomes of research conducted by a number of influential education scholars across the country, and my own research in this area of study, I am proud to support Teaching With Purpose (TWP) as a consortium member in their efforts to bring this powerful work to Portland. Furthermore, I firmly believe that SB 204, and its goal of bringing more inclusive practice to schools will move the dial for more equitable change in our educational system.

As you may know, any effort that enhances school culture, brings parents to schools as partners, and enhances collaboration, work with families and communities creates the optimal learning environments for young people. SB 204 and TWP champions such efforts through our focus on effective classroom teaching across subject areas with cultural responsiveness at its core.

I fully support TWP and commit my time and resources to work with the consortium 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 TWP to help to bring a meaningful systematic framework of culturally responsive practice into the state of Oregon. I support this bill and its focus on establishing a systematic approach to making our schools more equitable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Emdin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher Emdin Ph.D