

PRINCIPAL KAFELE CONSULTING, LLC

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February 10, 2017

Joint Ways and Means Committee

Dear Senator Devlin

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 of Oregon.

I might add that as a twenty-one year teacher and principal in New Jersey, culturally responsive teaching and learning was always an inherent part of the successes that we achieved at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Through our efforts, we received national recognition which was attributable in large part to our culturally responsive practices.

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,



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Education Consultant

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