

TO: House Committee on Education
FROM: Stacy Michaelson, Government Affairs Administrator, Multnomah County Schools
DATE: February 7, 2018
RE: HB 4044

Chair Doherty, Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Stacy Michaelson and I am here today on behalf of Multnomah Education Service District as well as Corbett, Centennial, David Douglas, Gresham-Barlow, Parkrose, and Reynolds School Districts. I believe that the inspiration for this bill came, at least in part, from our Multnomah County Schools Legislative Summit this past December.

With all of our area superintendents gathered with a number of your colleagues from the region, we discussed both the opportunities and challenges to meeting the needs of all of our students. In general, there are workforce challenges in education and one topic of discussion was how to make education an appealing career for our students. We also discussed the changing demographics of our students and the importance of having teachers in our buildings who reflect the communities they are serving.

As Oregon as a whole grows more diverse, so too does Multnomah County, with many of our schools having a majority minority student body. As a brief sampling: Centennial School District students are 43% White, 28% Hispanic, 12% Asian, and 7% Black; David Douglas School District students are 38% White, 25% Hispanic, 15% Asian and 12% Black; and Parkrose School District students are 33% White, 27% Hispanic, 13% Asian, and 15% Black. I doubt it is surprising that our workforce does not match those numbers.

We broadly support having efforts dedicated to studying teacher recruitment and retention to help navigate the general workforce challenges in Oregon. But gaining a better understanding of how we can do targeted outreach and recruitment to certain groups – as well as any specific supports to help those teachers succeed in our districts – would be a big help. Having this type of information from the Department of Education is exactly the kind of local-state partnership that helps us all best serve Oregon's students.

Thank you.