



Salem-Keizer NAACP 1166
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Date: February 12, 2018

To: Senate Committee on Education

Chair Roblan; Vice-Chair Lithicum; and Members Bentz, Dembrow, Gelser, Hass, and Thomsen

RE: Salem-Keizer NAACP Position In Support of HB 4044A

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has always advocated for quality education of African American children as the gateway to economic prosperity and to become fully contributing citizens of society. This belief led to the NAACP sponsored lawsuit filed by Thurgood Marshall, *Brown v. Board of Education*, which ruled in NAACP's favor and ended the "legal" separate but equal doctrine relegating Black students to inferior schools. In the decades since, quality education continues to be a focus of the National NAACP's programs.

To this day, however, Black students too often achieve poorer educational outcomes than their white peers. In Oregon, we know minority students struggle more than the general population, as evidenced by lower graduation rates, poorer performance on standardized tests, and a lower rate of continuation to higher education.

People of color are underrepresented among Oregon educators. We know children of all cultures and racial backgrounds do better when they can learn from educators who look like them. The Salem-Keizer NAACP supports any effort to improve student achievement, and we applaud the intent of HB 4044A to investigate and identify the most effective approaches for recruiting and retaining minority educators. Once the mandated report is received we look forward to supporting future legislation that will lead to meaningful and effective legislative and administrative reform.

We, the Executive Committee and members of the Salem-Keizer NAACP, thank HB 4044 co-sponsors Representatives Helfrich and Thomsen for their attention to this important issue of fairness and opportunity for all Oregonians.