

February 15, 2019

Honorable Margaret Doherty
Chair, House Committee on Education

PORTLAND
1221 SW YAMHILL ST.
SUITE 100
PORTLAND, OR 97205
(503) 227-6846

Re: Latino Student Success Plan, HB 2440

OREGONCF.ORG

Dear Representative Doherty:

We are writing to express our strong support for HB 2440, directing the Oregon Department of Education to develop and implement a State plan for Latino Student Success.

Over the last few decades we have seen steady growth in Latino communities in Oregon, now representing close to 13% of the state's population. There is no place where this growth is more evident than our schools, where Latino students account for close to 25% of all K-12 students. While recent reports show improvements in graduation rates among Latinos a troubling achievement gap persists. It begins in early childhood and kindergarten, persists through high school, and culminates in fewer students receiving post-secondary education.

Closing the opportunity gap for Oregon's children is OCF's top priority. The foundation and many of our individual donors are committed to and continue to invest in education for all children as a primary means of closing that gap, yet we know that Latino education achievement and student success require an intentional approach. The State needs an educated and well-prepared generation of young people. The Latino Student Success Plan called for in HB 2440 is a necessary strategy to accomplish these goals.


HB 2440 would provide the framework for agencies and educators, from birth through post-secondary, for culturally-responsive, targeted strategies to support success for Latino students. It will leverage the collaboration of the State, school districts, community-based organizations and private and philanthropic participation.

We urge you to pass HB 2440. Oregon cannot thrive without the success of Latino Oregonians, and educational achievement is fundamental to that success. We look forward to working with the State of Oregon for the creation and implementation of the Latino Student Success Plan.

Sincerely,


Max Williams
President and CEO


Roberto Franco
Director, Latino Partnership Program


Mary Louise McClintock
Director of Education Programs

cc: Members of the House Committee on Education