



Date: 03/04/2019

To: Chair Doherty, Vice Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chair Helt, and Members of the House Committee on Education

From: Kelli Horvath, Government Relations, Oregon Education Association

RE: OEA support for HB 2440

Chair Doherty, Vice Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chair Helt, and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Education Association (OEA) represents more than 44,000 educators who serve more than 600,000 Oregon students. Our members include educators, specialists, support staff, custodians, bus drivers, and community college faculty and staff from across the state. OEA would like to express our support for HB 2440 and encourage the committee to support this legislation.

Educators work hard to help students reach their full potential, and OEA strongly believes in access to education for all Oregon students. As a state, Oregon has taken many critical steps forward to help all students succeed. However, every day, educators still support students every day who face disparities and inequitable outcomes that unfold, both inside and outside of the classroom. Oregon's Latino/a population faces many of these barriers, and is increasing more rapidly than any other community in Oregon. As a state we are overdue in developing a plan for how best to support students from the Latino/a community to thrive from pre-K through higher education.

By establishing an advisory committee that centers the voices and experiences of key stakeholders from across the state and state education agencies to develop a plan to address barriers facing the Latino community in our schools, Oregon will take an important step toward equity for the Latino/a community. A strategic approach and set of recommendations for investments will help educators, schools, the state, and community partners to better support Latino students' success.

The Oregon Education Association urges you to support HB 2440. Thank you for your consideration.

Kelli Horvath,  
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