



Date: 03/11/2019

To: Chair Doherty and members of the House Committee on Education

From: Kelli Horvath, Government Relations, Oregon Education Association

RE: OEA support for HB 2023

Chair Doherty and members of the committee,

The Oregon Education Association (OEA) represents more than 44,000 educators who serve more than 600,000 students. Our members include educators, specialists, support staff, custodians, bus drivers, and community college faculty/staff from across the state. OEA would like to express our support for HB 2023 and encourage the committee to support this legislation.

In 2017, OEA was proud to support HB 2845. Since that bill's passage, OEA's members and staff have continued to stay engaged in the advisory group formed to develop and implement statewide ethnic studies standards. Educators supported that legislation and its implementation because their experience in the classroom every day has shown them the importance of helping students bridge differences and be more successful as a result of learning in inclusive, safe, and affirming environments that recognize and lift up the diversity of our communities.

HB 2023 takes the next important step to make sure that the content and materials students receive in the classroom reflect the diverse histories of our communities—and that educators have the support and professional development necessary to implement them effectively.

Educators take seriously their responsibility to help students develop a health sense of self and form respect for each other through the process of learning about shared experiences, commonalities, and differences. By making sure social studies standards and materials include a greater focus on contributions and history of Native Americans, people of African, API, Latino, or Middle Eastern descent, women, people with disabilities, immigrants, refugees, and the LGBTQ community than they do currently, HB 2023 will support educators to uphold this important responsibility. The bill will help not only help students gain more knowledge and understanding of diverse cultures, histories, and identities—it will help more children in our schools see themselves in the materials and content they are exposed to in the classroom every day, and better prepare them to reach their full potential.

The Oregon Education Association urges you to join us in supporting HB 2023.

Kelli Horvath

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