

Good afternoon members of the Education Committee,

My name is Odalis Aguilar Aguilar and I am a first year student at the University of Oregon studying Ethnic Studies and Spanish. I am also a part-time policy associate for the Oregon Student Association, and I am a first generation immigrant student from the state of Oaxaca, Mexico and I urge you today to be in support of HB 2023.

During my time through the educational system in Oregon, I went all the way through K-12 without learning about my history. I never learned about anything that pertained to my culture and it was often times looked down upon. I remember asking my 6th grade social studies teacher if we were going to ever learn about the treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo in 1848 or the Mexican-American War in 1910, she simply responded with, "it's not in the curriculum." How is it that although Mexico, along with other Central and Latin American countries have contributed to the history and building of this country, are being left out of the textbooks when we form a great part of history as well?

Oregon, we are far behind than California. The Chicana movements back in the 1960's demanded for same thing I am asking of you. We want representation. We want acknowledgement. We just want to be seen and seen as people who contribute to this country just as much as you do in that chair. I hope that the future generations are able to learn about their communities in all aspects as this bill states so that they no longer have to feel ashamed of where they come from or who they are as I did. When we see ourselves represented in the textbooks, we get butterflies of excitement, how great is it that we are seen as positive figures and contributors of this country when every day we are being told that we are not.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in favor of this bill and I strongly urge this committee to support HB 2023 as it would be another step in the right direction for the future of Oregon.

Respectfully,

Odalis Aguilar Aguilar  
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