



Oregon Student Association

May 19, 2019

To: Senate Committee on Education
From: Lizbeht Marquez
RE: House Bill 2023, Inclusive Education Bill

Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lizbeht Marquez, I am a student at Western Oregon University, and I am a Policy Associate for the Oregon Student Association. The Oregon Student Association is a statewide organization that represents 130,000 students in Oregon whose mission is to work for an affordable and accessible higher education. I am here to urge your support of HB 2023 which would ensure that textbooks and instructional materials include the role and contributions of historically marginalized communities.

During my K-12 education, I often found it difficult to stay engaged during social studies class as a person of color because I was mostly taught of the contributions White men made for our country. Growing up, it was important for me to see the contributions people from my community had done as well. It was not until I did my own research outside of the classroom that I was able to learn more about the Treaty of Guadalupe and the Chicax movement. I also wanted my peers to learn about the contributions my community had made as well as learn from theirs.

I believe that for too long communities of color, women, people with disabilities, immigrants, refugees, and the LGBTQ community have been left out of our history textbooks. It is almost as if they have not done anything to contribute to the progression of our country. This bill ensures that every student, no matter their identity feels included in the curriculum which is important because when teaching materials reflect student demographics, students are able to perform better academically, and connect positively towards their peers.

This is why I support HB 2023 and encourage this committee to pass it.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lizbeht Marquez

OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Oregon Student Association (OSA) is a statewide, student-led advocacy and organizing non-profit established in 1975 to represent, serve, and protect the collective interests of students in postsecondary education in Oregon

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