



March 3, 2021

To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government
From: Krista Parent and Craig Hawkins, Coalition of Oregon School Administrators (COSA)
Re: Letter of support for SB 5501, Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office Budget

Dear Co-Chair Golden, Co-Chair Smith, and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government,

We write this letter to express our support for SB 5501, a budget bill that would continue funding for the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office (OACO).

The work of OACO and the different Advocacy Commissions (Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, Black Affairs, Hispanic Affairs, and Oregon Commission for Women) are critical to engaging communities of color and women in the research and policy making process.

Since the fall of 2018, we've partnered with the Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW), Oregon Department of Education, and our women superintendents to examine the experiences of our women superintendents, inclusive of race/ethnicity, LGBTQ equity, and other demographics, in navigating leadership pathways to the superintendency, hiring, retention, and pay equity.

Our collective work resulted in the need for additional research and guidance from OCFW and the network of resources that the Commission can provide. The partnership with OCFW also emphasized the need to work across all the Advocacy Commissions to look at the intersectionality of race, gender, gender identity, and other historically marginalized groups of individuals.

In the short-term, the study served as the impetus for engaging women superintendents in conversations monthly on how to strengthen our network of supports for our women superintendents.



**COALITION OF
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We strongly believe that this work will continue to serve as a catalyst for future work that will help support more women and people of color around the state in pursuing the superintendency.

This partnership and the applied public policy research work would not have been possible without the support of the Oregon Commission for Women. Their work, along with the other Advocacy Commissions, are helping our state transform how we advance and support underrepresented voices and communities; remove barriers to opportunities; and invest in what works so that we can achieve true equity for all Oregonians.

We urge your support of SB 5501.

Sincerely,

Krista Parent
Director of Executive Leadership and Licensure
Coalition of Oregon School Administrators

Craig Hawkins
Executive Director
Coalition of Oregon School Administrators