



To: Members of the House Education Committee
From: Iris Maria Chávez, Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools
Date: March 9, 2021
Re: Support for House Bill 3236

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs Neron and Weber, and members of the Committee,

The Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools is our state's charter support organization and are a coalition of community-based, public charter schools representing all corners of our state. Although, we are all unique in our pedagogy and practice, what unites us is our commitment to educational innovation and to high-quality schools for all students.

Now more than ever, we have seen how Oregon families and students have varying needs and wants when it comes to their education. Our schools, as public charter schools, have been developed to meet these varying needs and our educational models are founded on the principle of meeting our students where they are. We believe that it is important to put a critical eye to the various education pathways that Oregon students and their families use. If passed, it is our hope that this Task Force will include representatives from the communities who know their students well, who understand their disparate needs, and know that we need to address inequities embedded in our current system. It's critical that this Task Force's members ensure all students—especially Black students, Indigenous students, students of color, students experiencing poverty, students with disabilities, and English Language Learners—are centered in this work and have an eye to whether students have access to adequately and sustainably resourced schools, effective educators, and stellar educational models and curriculum.

We, ORC3S, support the intent of this bill and the work the Task Force should undertake to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the state's support through:

- (a) The state funding formula for the program,
- (b) The adequacy of funding for the program,
- (c) The resources provided to students of the program, including academic and nonacademic supports and other wraparound services,
- (d) The accessibility, availability and quality of the program,
- (e) The staffing of the program,
- (f) The transparency and accountability of the program, both in relation to funding and to outcomes; and
- (g) The adherence of the program to this state's educational goals of equity, diversity and inclusion.

We appreciate the attention to this issue and look forward to working with the Committee and future members of the Task Force on furthering this work in collaboration with representatives from the education pathways identified in the legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Iris Maria Chávez", is written over a faint, light-colored signature line.

Iris Maria Chávez

Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools (ORC3S)