



Testimony in Support of SB 732
March 10, 2021
Senate Committee On Education
Akil S. Patterson, MLS

Greetings, Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and members of the committee.

My name is Akil Patterson, and I serve as the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) Political Organizer.

Today I submit, to the committee, testimony in support of SB 732 on behalf of ONA's 15,000 registered nurses, the Nurse Practitioners of Oregon, and professional member affiliates throughout the state. I am honored to represent them and serve as a voice for our member organization.

ONA supports SB 732 because our members and professional associates; have all over the last several years take on the mission to improve community health outcomes. Improving these outcomes starts with ensuring that people who work in schools reflect the community, that the coaches of our youth's teams play on upholding the values that make this nation and state so great—the fair ability to improve the equity gaps that exist best left to those who understand that community. Our members are also parents, and they deserve the right to know that their children are educated in an Anti-Racist school district.

This legislation is a starting point to address the concerns that many ask themselves. Understand that this is the floor and not the ceiling. It is where we can start, and we can allow for local conversations to help impact the change that is needed.

ONA believes that this legislation seeks only to improve relationships in communities. We urge this committee to move this bill favorable on behalf of all Oregonians.