

Please accept this statement in strong support of the measure to implement statewide measures that will support LGBTQIA youth in Oregon schools. This is a group whose needs are often not met by the supports already in place, and research has demonstrated time and again that their needs are complex and in need of more systemic plans of support. As someone who works in teacher preparation, I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for educators at all levels, from the classroom up to the State Board of Education, to be knowledgeable (and empathic) about meeting these needs.