

March 29, 2021

Co-Chair Lew Frederick
Co-Chair Susan McLain
Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

RE: SB 5513 and Oregon's Education Budget for the 2021-23 Biennium

Dear Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education,

My name is Erin Buchta-Porro, and I am the Interim Education Programs Manager at Consejo Hispano, headquartered in Astoria and covering Columbia, Clatsop, and Tillamook counties. Consejo Hispano is a partner of the Oregon Partners for Education Justice. Consejo Hispano is a community-based organization that works to create equitable integration of Latinx into Oregon's broader social and economic fabric.

In 2021 Consejo Hispano implemented Abriendo Puertas, an evidence-based, culturally responsive curriculum that helps parents become leaders of their families. Through Zoom, we will have positively impacted 20+ families and 35+ children in our community and have two more cohorts planned. Abriendo Puertas is a ten-unit curriculum that supports family learning in early reading, math, and making healthy choices. Next year we would like to continue our efforts and expand into Tillamook and Columbia counties. Consejo Hispano was able to support local families because of grants like the Early Childhood Equity Fund. Oregon has a rich and diverse population, and to fund Oregon's educational budget for the 2021-23 biennium means supporting culturally responsive programs like Abriendo Puertas.

The Oregon Partners for Education Justice and Consejo Hispano asks you to fully support the following budget priorities, many of which are included in the Governor's Recommended Budget for 2021-23:

- **Full and dedicated funding for the Student Success Act, including new and expanded programs:**
- **\$27.7 million** for the **Early Childhood Equity Fund** to expand access to culturally specific early learning programs provided by community-based organizations and Tribal Nations.
- **\$28.1 million** to support the **Early Childhood Professional Learning System**.
- **\$986.2 million** for the **Student Investment Account**, the state's largest equity investment designed to close academic disparities and meet the mental and behavioral health needs of historically underserved student populations.
- **\$6.3 million** for **Summer Learning Grants for Title I Schools**.
- **\$25.2 million** for **Oregon's Statewide Equity Plans**, including:

- **\$14.4 million** for the **Black/African American Student Success Plan**
 - **\$4.1 million** for the **Latino/a/x and Indigenous Student Success Plan**
 - **\$8.4 million** for the **American Indian/Alaska Native Student Success Plan**
- Increased investment in the **Educator Advancement Council**, including new investments to **recruit, retain, and support a diverse educator workforce**; **\$14 million** to develop an **anti-racism initiative for educators** and create an **Indigenous and Tribal Educator Institute**; and **\$1.3 million** to provide **professional learning opportunities for Ethnic Studies [SB 227]**.
- **Additional investments in the Oregon Department of Education to advance and embed equity in the K-12 education system, including:**
 - **\$334,033** to convene an advisory group to develop **Social and Emotional Learning Content Standards for K-12 schools. [HB 2166 -1]**
 - **\$646,331** to review **Discipline Data on Suspension/Expulsion in K-12. [SB 328]**
 - **\$250,000** to conduct an **Equitable and Inclusive Review of Oregon's Diploma Requirements. [SB 744]**
 - **\$5.8 million** to develop a **Pilot Program for Culturally Responsive, Trauma-Informed Mental and Behavioral Health Services and Interventions** for K-12 Students. **[HB 2368 -2]**
- **Additional investments in Oregon's Early Learning Division to advance and embed equity in early learning and child care systems, including:**
 - **\$5.8 million** to **Reduce/Eliminate Suspension and Expulsion in Early Childhood Programs. [SB 236 / HB 2166 -1]**
 - **\$900,000** to establish a **Tribal Early Learning Hub. [HB 2055]**

To help Lantix families and students thrive in Oregon, Consejo Hispano asks the Legislature to invest in all the priorities supported by Oregon Parents for Education Justice and specifically the Early Childhood Equity Fund.

Thank you,

Consejo Hispano
Erin Buchta-Porro, Interim Education Programs Manager