

**SB 5513 Testimony from Helen Ying**  
**March 31, 2021**

Co-Chair Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair Representative Susan McLain and  
Committee Members,

My name is Helen Ying. I've been an educator for over 30 years and currently serve on the Multnomah Education Service District Board. I chair the Board Equity and Inclusion Committee. Having worked as an educator in 6 public schools and a hearings officer for 2 school districts, I know firsthand of the challenges and barriers stemmed from social and economic disparities that confront our marginalized students. I am here today to advocate for funding for education of our most vulnerable student population, the Juvenile Detention Education Program. A program that is overrepresented by students from the BIPOC community.

- At Donald E Long, 22% of students are Black/African American and 25% are Hispanic.
- 39% of students qualify for Special Education, compared with just over 13% of students in the region's public school districts.
- Nearly 50% of students who come into Donald E Long have dropped out of school
- When we talk about serving marginalized students, this is who we are talking about. These students come to us as part of communities who have been historically under-served and then we put them in JDEP which has historically been under-funded and under-resourced.
- If we want to talk about making equitable investments in our students, it should start with this population. They have the most to gain from targeted investments and the most to lose from cuts.

I implore you to fund JDEP with adequate funding to help these students get their diploma or complete their GED so they could find a positive path forward and keep them out of the adult corrections system.