

Good afternoon everyone. My name is Janani Romero. Thank you Chair Alonso Leon, Chair Neron, Chair Weber, and Members of the House of Education Committee for allowing us this opportunity. I am a Latinx junior at Tualatin High School and I support HB 3363. Looking back at elementary school pictures I realized that the majority of students attending Bridgeport Elementary were white. Yes there were also students of color, but the ratio was off. As a kid I was very observant and blunt; one thing I noticed was that a lot of the time when clique groups were formed, they were formed by skin color. The “popular girls” were always white and they always picked each other for group projects. I’d always try to be in these groups and somehow I’d always get the

“Sorry our group is full, maybe next time!”

I tried so hard to be involved, I became a part of the Student ambassadors program, but I felt like my ideas, my thoughts and my voice was never appreciated or heard. Many could say we were oblivious children and didn’t understand what we were doing, or why we were doing it, but circumstances are different now. Our schools are more diverse, yet I never understood why Hispanic/Latinx history in the United States was never taught in depth. All I knew about the Hispanic history and my culture was the short stories my parents told me or the small lessons in my Spanish for Native Speakers class. The only Latinx Communities I had built were in church and quinceaneras with my parents’ friends, but never in school. Because I try my best in every aspect of my life and want to do something with my life, I am considered a “try hard”. Because I want to make a change and have my voice heard, I am considered a “try hard”. Those comments are so diminishing and harm my self confidence. Because I am Hispanic and don’t have a lot of money, is my voice surpassed? I support the House Bill 3363 because the council will make BIPOC student voices truly heard. It is amazing to see such a diverse group of minority students working to make a change, which is to create a more welcoming environment for everyone. Striving to change the education system’s policies. Seeing this bill pass would

mean that my minority voice isn't small, it can be heard, and that it matters. I can make a difference and everyone else can too.