



STATE OF OREGON  
Office of the Governor  
**KATE BROWN**

April 6, 2021

RE: Support for HB 3363 -2

Dear Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs Neron and Weber and members of the House Education Committee:

I am writing to support the passage of HB 3363-2, which would create a Racial Equity and Justice Student Collaborative. Racism is a structural, social problem. It has a source and cause located in the political, economic, cultural, and social institutions of our society, and it stems from the inequitable distribution of access, power, influence, opportunities, and resources. That is why Governor Brown convened the first Racial Justice Council last year.

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have only exacerbated the structural racism and historic inequities that pervade Oregon's educational system. Centering student voice is of critical importance if we are going to work to dismantle the systems of oppression that continue to exist throughout our state. There are incredible student members of the Racial Justice Council, and the Racial Equity and Justice Student Collaborative takes the necessary steps forward to scale the work for the Racial Justice Council to work in service of the students of Oregon.

The Coalition for Oregon School Administrators have been working closely with the Oregon Association of Student Councils and REAP to ensure that this legislation is reflective of the needs of students -- particularly students who have been historically, and currently underrepresented or underserved -- to empower the Collaborative to recommend meaningful changes to our education system.

Our office is happy to support HB 3363 -2, alongside the codification of the Racial Justice Council, to provide mentorship and opportunities to make systemic changes to education in Oregon -- all while being compensated for their contributions to this work.

Respectfully,

Alyssa Chatterjee

Deputy Education Policy Advisor & Racial Justice Council Co-Convener  
Office of Governor Kate Brown