



RE: SB 227 - Relating to Ethnic Studies Standards and Professional Learning Opportunities

February 10, 2021

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and members of the Senate Committee on Education, thank you very much for the opportunity to speak with you today. On behalf of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), I would like to **express our strong support for SB 227** for the creation of the Educator Advancement Council to implement Ethnic Studies curriculum in the classroom.

APANO unites Asian and Pacific Islanders to build power, develop leaders, and advance equity through organizing, advocacy, cultural work, and community development. We are committed to building a world that will uplift our community, and where our stories and experiences are visible and recognized.

The passage of the Ethnic Studies curriculum requirement bill was a triumph for our API community, but as we know, this is not the only step we need to take. This curriculum will be entirely new to many of our educators and requires familiarity with its contents if the learning is to be successful for students. By investing in the proper preparation of these standards, we can work towards empowering not only our educator workforce but our students.

As this process of professional development is initiated, we ask that it be **in partnership with organizations who are already connected to the community**, organizations like Unite Oregon, IRCO, Latino Network, and APANO, that could provide consulting and training with educators to equitably implement the new curriculum in a way that best suits the students. SB 227 should also be in alignment with ORS 336.113 to thoughtfully develop and implement multicultural education into the classroom.

We are also **proud to support this measure along with other members of Oregon Partners for Education Justice**, a group of community advocates, providers, and organizations that are collectively endorsing SB 227, in our [2021 Legislative Agenda](#).

The Educator Advancement Council provides an opportunity to train our Oregon educators to teach Ethnic Studies and we ask that you do so by intentionally including the community. Thank you for your consideration of this bill and we respectfully urge you to vote yes on SB 227.

Sincerely,
Lanea Olson
Asian Youth Organizer