



Teresa Alonso Leon
State Representative

February 23, 2021

Vice Chairs Neron and Weber and members of the House Education Committee,

For the record, my name is Teresa Alonso Leon, and I am the Representative for House District 22 which incorporates Woodburn through the north part of Salem. I am writing today in support of HB 2166. I also serve as Chair of the Education Committee.

As a member of the Governor's Racial Justice Council on Education, this bill is very important to me. I was proud to work alongside other Council members to create this bill that impacts prekindergarten through post-secondary education. I see the value of this bill passing to improve equity throughout classrooms across the state.

Oregon was established as a majority white state and the centering of whiteness runs through the fabric of our state, including in our education system. Oregon's systemic racism and inequities are products of design. But they can be resigned. With the thoughtful and deliberate ideas set forth in HB 2166, we can redesign our education system, keeping all of Oregon students' identities and needs in mind.

The bill establishes an advisory group that will create a statewide social emotional framework for students and will form educator equity goals to ensure that Oregon's teaching force reflects the diversity of its students. Additionally, this bill will establish an early childhood suspension and prevention program and an Educator Advancement Council.

I support HB 2166 and I believe it is another big step in moving toward acknowledging the diverse needs of the growing demographics of our student population from early childhood through high school.

Sincerely,

Teresa Alonso Leon