



3083 NE 49 Place
Hillsboro OR 97124-6008
TEL: 503-844-1500
FAX: 503-844-1782
WEB: hsd.k12.or.us

February 2, 2021

TO: Oregon House Education Committee
FROM: Travis Reiman, Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services
Arcema Tovar, Director of Teaching & Learning and Bilingual Programs
Olga Acuña, Executive Director of Federal Programs
Francesca Sinapi, Executive Director of Schools
Becky Kingsmith, Director of Teaching & Learning
Carolyn Grenz, Bilingual Programs TOSA
Dayle Spitzer, Assistant Superintendent of School Supervision
Mike Scott, Superintendent
RE: HB 2056

Chair Alonso Leon and Education Committee Members,

Please accept this letter as testimony from leaders in the Hillsboro School District in support of HB 2056: Access to Linguistic Inclusion.

In the Hillsboro School District, we currently have 3,000 students in our 50/50 Dual Language Program. These students study in Spanish and English from Preschool through 12th grade. Many of them continue on to Western Oregon University to become bilingual teachers.

The cognitive, academic, sociocultural, and economic benefits of bilingualism are well documented, and we thank the committee for your support of multilingual education in Oregon. HB 2056 represents a step forward in removing barriers for our multilingual students. One significant impact of the proposed HB 2056 will be the ability for our students to achieve credits toward graduation across academic content areas in courses offered in languages other than English.

For example, today's students have the opportunity to take math, science, language arts, and even International Baccalaureate courses in English or in Spanish. HB 2056 will allow us to document those credits regardless of the language of instruction. After all, the standards for academic content are learnable in any language, and our bilingual students easily transfer knowledge learned in one language into another.

This change will support school success and on-time graduation, as well allowing students to access a broader range of course offerings and learning experiences. But HB 2056 also does something greater: It honors the assets of language and culture our students bring to the classroom and to our communities. We will do anything we can to unlock and celebrate these linguistic assets and ensure that classmates and community members benefit from a multilingual, inclusive Oregon education system.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this legislation.

Gratefully,

Hillsboro School District Leaders