



Date: February 1, 2022

To: House Committee on Education

Re: OEA Support for 4031

The Oregon Education Association represents over 41,000 educators and education service professionals across the state, from pre-K to the community college level. We support the passage of HB 4031.

Our public entities – be it a state department, school, elected body, etc... – should reflect the community it serves. For too long, this has not been the case. And as Oregon's population continues to grow and diversify, it becomes imperative that those in public service represent the communities served. It is critical part of the change that needs to happen for Oregon to become the more inclusive community we all would like it to be.

Part of change is knowing where you need growth and setting goals to meet that growth. If we look at Portland Public Schools we see that students of color make up close to 40% of the student population, and growing, and as we look to the future of education and education policy in Oregon the kind of reflection and goal setting that HB 4031 sets will have positive outcomes for years to come. That is why HB 4031 is so important. Setting goals for the Oregon Department of Education that they can measure and benchmarks to be accountable to the community is one of many steps Oregon should be taking.

Please vote for HB 4031 with a do pass recommendation.