



February 1, 2022

Chair Representative Teresa Alonso Leon  
Vice-Chair Representative Courtney Neron  
Vice-Chair Representative Suzanne Weber  
Members of the House Committee on Education

**Re: Support for HB 4112 – Professional Learning Opportunities Related to Ethnic Studies Standards**

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chairs Neron and Weber, and Members of the House Committee on Education--

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of **HB 4112**, a bill that appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Department of Education (ODE) for the Educator Advancement Council to provide professional learning opportunities related to the ethnic studies standards work that began in 2017 (HB 2845).

FACT Oregon is the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, designated Parent Training Information (PTI) Center serving Oregon families as they navigate Special Education services. We help thousands of families each year navigate raising a child experiencing disability by providing peer delivered support, training, and resources. We support and equip families, wherever they may be on their journey. The outcome of our work is families with high expectations for their child and a vision for the future where our schools and communities are accessible, welcoming, and embrace that disability is natural.

We were delighted when the original Ethnic Studies Bill recognized and included people with disabilities in the definition of “social minority” groups whose histories, contributions and perspectives would be included in Oregon’s new Ethnic Studies Standards. Ethnic Studies standards are critically important in creating more equitable and inclusive school communities because they will support educators and students in recognizing the systemic inequities and oppression experienced by historically marginalized ethnic and social groups, including youth with disabilities.

As schools are preparing to implement the new standards in K-12 schools now, Oregon has a responsibility to invest in professional development to give educators the tools they need to teach Ethnic Studies, interrupt racism and ableism, and create equitable schools that are inclusive and welcoming for all.

Thank you for considering this testimony. ***We urge you to vote “yes” in support of HB 4112.***

Ava Bartley, Policy Director  
FACT Oregon

2475 SE Ladd Ave. Suite 430 | Portland, OR 97214  
Phone: 503-786-6082 | Fax: 503-786-6024  
Email: [info@factoregon.org](mailto:info@factoregon.org) | [www.factoregon.org](http://www.factoregon.org)