



Date: February 1, 2022

To: House Committee on Education

Re: OEA Support for 4112

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 4112.

The Oregon Education Association believes that Oregon is poised to support and launch one of the most comprehensive and impactful changes, not only in curricular standards, but also in pedagogical transformation in our state's K-12 educational history. Ethnic Studies is more than a set of revised Social Studies standards, it is a key center point and companion to the educational changes that came with Oregon's Tribal History/Shared History and Holocaust bills. All three initiatives call for the powerful connecting themes of resilience, resistance and reconciliation as well as skilled culturally responsive and inclusive instructional practices that will strengthen all teaching. There is no better time, no greater need than now, to provide high quality and authentic support, resources, professional learning, coaching and community outreach to K-12 educators who will be called upon to engage in powerful ways with students about our history.

The Oregon Education Association has been on a three-year journey connecting with community organizations who are not only immersed in or come from BIPOC-centered roots, but also who center on primary, place-based sources, including elders and survivors. We have reached out to on-the-ground, experienced educators in our schools who have blazed a trail in implementing Ethnic Studies and with other states who have learned and relearned from the challenges of pioneering this work ahead of us. We have connected with the Oregon Department of Education, who is equally concerned that the need to support and coach educators on the transformational pedagogical practices to teach this curriculum is at least, if not more, important than the development and deployment of content and resources that need to be clearly and easily accessible to educators of all levels, in all districts across the state.

We value the push to improve ethnic studies in Oregon, and we value the continued work by ODE and the Educator Advancement Council to do so. However, resources are critical to truly make the transformational change Oregon and her students need to see. We are thrilled to see an investment of \$1.25 million in HB 4112, and hope this is just the next step towards supporting the development and advancement of ethnic studies.