

To: Members of the House Education Committee
From: Iris Maria Chávez, Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools
Date: February 2, 2022
Re: House Bill 4112 – **relating to Ethnic Studies Professional Development**

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs Neron and Weber,

The Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools is our state's charter support organization and are a coalition of community-based, public charter schools representing all corners of our state. Although, we are all unique in our pedagogy and practice, what unites us is our commitment to educational innovation and to high-quality schools for all students.

In 2017 ORC3S supported the work of the legislature to adopt an Ethnic Studies standard with bipartisan support to ensure our K-12 education system honors and integrates the rich and unique histories, contributions, and perspectives of traditionally underrepresented ethnic and social minority groups. Oregon students have asked for these study programs, and while the Oregon State Board of Education has adopted the standards, work remains to be done in providing support for educators to implement the new standards. Too often state education policy is made without providing appropriate financial resources for implementation. This is an opportunity for the Oregon legislature to resources a good policy passed in a previous year.

It is time to deliver on that promise and pass funding for Ethnic Studies professional development to ensure that these standards are taught effectively and integrate the rich and unique histories, contributions, and perspectives of traditionally underrepresented ethnic and social minority groups.

We appreciate the attention to this issue and look forward to working with the Committee, ODE, and the SBOE on furthering this work.

Sincerely,



Iris Maria Chávez
Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools (ORC3S)