

Chair Alonso Leon,

My name is Kate McPherson and I want to voice my support of HB 4112 because I think it is essential that funds are available to provide teachers with resources, training and support so they can effectively implement Oregon's thoughtful Ethnic Studies Standards. Only with this Professional Development will **ALL** students feel seen, welcomed and empowered as they learn about Oregon histories and understand how all our peoples have and can effectively work together to protect and advance our individual rights while also promoting our common good.

You already have already read testimony from students about how important it is to have their histories and contributions be seen as a valued part of the Oregon experience.

As a retired classroom educator I recall all too many times when I was expected to teach subjects with little or no support or resources and with little time to problem solve and refine my practice. This bill will provide the funding the Educator Advancement Council needs to provide essential training and localized support across the state through its Regional Educator Networks. Thank you for advancing this bill which is designed to support Oregon's teachers.

The point I also want to make is that Professional Development needs to be provided for cultural community groups as well. Many organizations - the Japanese American Museum of Oregon, Oregon Black Pioneers, Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, Van Port Mosaic, The Portland Chinatown Museum to name a few - have invaluable resources and people who share their rich and authentic Oregon stories. Thanks to the pandemic, many of these resources have been digitized so they can be accessed by teachers across the state. These community organizations can breathe life into the standards by sharing their authentic local stories. We must encourage educators and community organizations to work together to create resources that align with Oregon's new Social Studies Standards and to explore ways that the authentic voices of the community can become an integral part of ethnic studies.

Professional Development could help cultural community groups enrich their resources in ways that compliment classroom instruction and make them available using ODE's Open Source web site. In addition, having people from these organization coming into the classroom as co-educators will provide the support teachers need, it will diversify the teaching team and increase student engagement.

Thank you for your foresight in understanding that thoughtful and ongoing PD is essential for Oregon's Ethnic Studies to realize its potential. And Professional Development that enables cultural community groups to work in partnership with classroom teachers will help both work together to help all students thrive as learners and as citizens.

Please vote 'yes' on bill 4112.

Gratefully,
Kate