

February 1, 2022

TO: Oregon House Education Committee

FR: Parasa Chanramy, on behalf of the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators

RE: HB 4112 Letter of Support

Dear Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs Neron and Weber, and Members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Parasa Chanramy and on behalf of the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators and our 2,700 administrators across Oregon, we urge you to pass House Bill 4112.

House Bill 4112 would invest \$1.25 million to support educator professional development around the implementation of the Ethnic Studies Standards (<u>which are incorporated in the 2021 Social Science Standards - approved in March of 2021</u>).

Investing in educator professional development is key to building an educator's knowledge, skills, and capacity. Most importantly, deepening an educator's understanding of the new standards, as well as their ability to support students in meeting the learning goals, will have a tremendous impact on student achievement and growth.

A number of school districts in Oregon are early adopters of the Ethnic Studies standards. Through on-going support and capacity building, these districts who have incorporated Ethnic Studies are seeing student engagement increase, social emotional connections strengthen, and academic achievement rise.

This progress is reinforced by the research as well. Students participating in Ethnic Studies coursework in this <u>multi-year study</u> experienced i) improvements in G.P.A. across disciplines, ii) higher high school graduation rates and college-going rates; and iii) increases in students' sense of belonging in school (<u>PNAS</u>, <u>September 2021</u>).

COSA supported the passage of the Ethnic Studies bill (HB 2845) in 2017; the Inclusive Instructional Materials bill (HB 2023) in 2019; and now, we are excited to support the Professional Development for Ethnic Studies bill (HB 4112) this session to further help with the rollout and implementation of the new standards.

We urge you to vote yes on HB 4112 and support this critical investment.