

JANEEN SOLLMAN
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 15



OREGON STATE SENATE

February 3, 2021

RE: Support for House Bill 4099

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

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for House Bill 4099, establishing the Racial Equity and Justice Youth Collaborative. I currently serve as the State Senator for Senate District 15 in Western Washington County. During my eight years on the Hillsboro School Board I advocated to bring student representation to the board. I'm proud to say that Hillsboro School Board now has three student representatives, that serve one-year terms each, with new students coming on board each year. The elevation of their voices has brought widespread praise from the community and their student peers. Just as I experienced during school board meetings, when our student youth population provide testimony in our legislative committee meetings, everyone listens intently to their perspective.

The Racial Equity and Justice Student Collaborative as established by HB 4099 gives an opportunity to elevate the voices of our youth regionally statewide. By requiring that the Collaborative include at least two members from each of our nineteen Educational Service Districts we are ensuring that all corners of the state will be represented. It is also good to see the addition of students navigating poverty to the Collaborative, as this is an important perspective that we need to include. I am proud to sponsor House Bill 4099 and urge your support of this bill to create a state-level Racial Equity and Justice Student Collaborative. The time has never been more crucial to hear their voices regarding their future.

Onward and Upward,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janeen Sollman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Janeen Sollman
Senate District 15