

February 4, 2022

Good afternoon, Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs Neron and Weber, and Members of the House Education Committee

I am Piper Thompson. I write this letter as a future parent of children that will attend Beaverton Public Schools.

I am writing today on behalf of my support of HB 4099. We have the opportunity to collaborate with students to establish a foundation for Racial Equity and Justice in Oregon's education system. Students of all ages are interconnected with racial tension both globally and locally, and unfortunately experience it first-hand in our schools with outdated racial education systems that cause exclusion to many BIPOC youth. Students are incredibly capable and hold the immense capacity to make lasting systemic changes across our schools. It is our responsibility to provide them safe spaces to talk about racial inequities and elevate them as leaders. When we empower students with a voice, and truly listen - positive progress can be made.

I urge you to focus on who deserves your attention, stand with students, and pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Piper Thompson  
Beaverton, Oregon