

February 4, 2022

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

My name is Shelby Milne. I write to you today as a native Oregonian and an active member in my community; locally and nationally – who's become aware of the current discussion of bill HB 4099.

I'm urging you to support HB 4099 not only because of the evident positive impacts it would have to the Oregon Department of Education but also the future of our youth leaders. Supporting HB 4099 will allow a diverse lens from those who will soon take hold of Oregon's future policies and practices ensuring the lived experience has a seat at the table when making those decisions. In order to successfully encompass the Oregonian experience we need to ensure our youth have the resources and perspective required for collaboration to collectively create and implement said policies and practices that directly impact their lives.

Today's youth have been an inspiration to me as an adult and impacted my view on humanity and the powers of community in a major way. I'm constantly learning – and unlearning – while relearning how I can show up better for those who may not have had the same experiences that I did as a child growing up in Oregon. Empathy and encouragement for growth comes from allowing different views to be discussed out loud and freely in a safe environment. Looking back, I wish I'd been in a community growing up with more diversity to expand my awareness to the world around me, and this bill would allow our future generations to be heard and considered.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. And again, in closing, I urge you to vote yes on HB 4099.

Sincerely,

Shelby Milne

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