

Submitter: Alexandra Bruckner
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB421

I oppose SB 421. Ironically, but not surprisingly, this bill pushes what it seeks to destroy: discrimination. The qualifications to even be considered for this new advisory council are that applicants are:

"(a) Are from racial or ethnic communities that historically have been, or currently are, underrepresented or underserved, including communities for which a plan has been developed

and implemented under ORS 329.841, 329.843 or 329.845;

(b) Identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirit, intersex, asexual, nonbinary or another minority gender identity or sexual orientation;

(c) Are English language learners;

(d) Are identifiable as being a child with a disability, as defined in ORS 343.035;

(e) Are navigating poverty; or

(f) Have experienced disproportionate results in education due to historical practices, as

identified by the State Board of Education by rule."

These criterion leave out so called "white cis-heteronormative" people (a phrase made up in the last 3 years). There is also no mention of representation by different religious groups. In an attempt to be diverse, this bill explicitly leaves out groups of people.

Admittedly, the bill goes on to state that:

f(A) When making appointments under this subsection, the Governor must ensure that:

(i) At least 70 percent of the members of the youth advisory council are from racial or ethnic communities that historically have been, or currently are, underrepresented or underserved;

(ii) At least 50 percent of the youth members of the youth advisory council from each of the regions identified in paragraph (b) of this subsection are from racial or ethnic communities that historically have been, or currently are, underrepresented or underserved; and

(iii) The youth members of the youth advisory council must include youth who:

(I) Identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirit, intersex, asexual, nonbinary or another minority gender identity or sexual orientation;

(II) Are English language learners;

(III) Are identified as being a child with a disability, as defined in ORS 343.035;

(IV) Are navigating poverty; or

(V) Have experienced disproportionate results in education"

This at least leaves room for white, "cis-gendered" people, but it is confusing since applicants must meet the listed criteria above. I oppose this bill that picks and

chooses which children can participate based on their gender, sexual preferences, race, and life experience. Kids already have it hard these days; they don't need to be discriminated on by adults in the government.