



Oregon Association of Student Councils

SB 421 | Oral Testimony – Palacios_Miles

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the committee.

My name is Miles Palacios and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Association of Student Councils.

I am here today to speak in support of Senate Bill 421, a bill that would create a statewide youth-majority led collaborative.

Oregon has a history of disproportionate results in access, success, and opportunity in systems such as our education system.

Our state's leaders are working hard to address these disparities. As leaders who represent and advocate on behalf of those with lived experiences which are not always close to one's own, elevating the voices of those you serve is important. SB 421 is one such way to do this, specifically for the youth of our state.

The collaborative, or youth advisory council, would elevate the voices of young people, defined as 11 to 21 years of age, who have experienced disproportionate results in education due to historical practices, as identified by the State Board of Education by rule. This includes but is not limited to our students who are BIPOC, LGBTQ2SIA+, disabled, or are navigating poverty.

Members of this council would inform development and rollout of different state-level supports, resources, and surveys for students. They will have the opportunity to continue development as leaders, receive mentoring and tutoring support, and improve how the state engages and supports youth in policy processes. The reporting piece of this policy would have them present their learnings, recommendations, and progress to the Oregon Legislature. And ultimately, provide policy recommendations to the Governor, legislature, and state agencies.

The collaborative would also have the ability to shape the creation of regional youth leadership networks. SB 421 requires that this collaborative will have a minimum of two youth members serving their peers from every Education Service District in Oregon. This is merely a floor—the collaborative will have the autonomy to further ensure that there is equitable representation of our state's many rich geographic and cultural regions.

This bill received bi-partisan support and passed out of its policy committee in both the 2021 and 2022 legislative sessions.



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Regarding its fiscal– for the 23-25 biennium it is projected to be \$391,658, and for the 25-27, \$399,933. This includes one permanent, Operations & Policy Analyst 4 position and one permanent, part-time Administrative Specialist 1 position, as well as funding to support the council with technological needs, travel, and other systems of support.

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the committee – I urge your support.

Miles Palacios
Oregon Association of Student Councils, Executive Director