



IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

BUILDING NEW BEGINNINGS

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www.irco.org

MAIN OFFICE

AFRICA HOUSE

EASTERN OREGON

GREATER MIDDLE EAST
CENTER

PACIFIC ISLANDER &
ASIAN FAMILY CENTER

SLAVIC AND EASTERN
EUROPEAN CENTER

March 22, 2023

Re: HB 5014 - Oregon Dept. of Education's Agency Budget.

Dear Co-Chairs Fredrick and McLain, and Members of the Committee,

The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) would like to show our strong support for HB 5014 to fund critical educational priorities like ethnic studies and student race/ethnicity data.

Furthermore, we support funds oriented to summer learning and after school programs as uplifted by our partners.

For decades, IRCO has supported our diverse immigrant and refugee youth through academic and youth programs, whether school-based or school-linked. These programs served nearly 4,394 youth in 2021 - with academic support, parent engagement, after school, and summer programming across all our locations. Recently, IRCO's 2022 Community Needs Assessment showed the great diversity in the communities we serve - including our youth and students - and the unique needs among different communities. Whether they are African immigrant/refugee, Polynesian, Micronesian, South Asian, Southeast Asian, from Slavic Eastern European background, or the identities that make the Greater Middle East or any other community that makes up Oregon - each student and each community deserve to be uplifted.

As we look to student race and ethnicity data, we know that uplifting needs and addressing barriers means properly collecting data and disaggregating data. Without disaggregation - data collected often buries the true conditions of those from immigrant and refugee backgrounds.

At IRCO, our students and our communities are often minorities within minorities - neither a monolith or singular in needs or stories. Without uplifting their visibility along with their barriers, these students that we serve, and their families, are essentially left out of discussions on the needs and services needed to succeed. Without more specific data disaggregation and data collection - we as a state are therefore unable to truly embrace the diversity that is our community.

Ultimately, all students deserve to be included. Our state has passed racial and ethnic data standards before in health - our students and their families deserve the same in education.

We ask for your support of HB 5014 and the funding of critical services, and equally support the efforts to ensure that ethnic studies, as well as race and ethnicity data, through HB 3288, are passed and funded.

Sokho Eath

Director, Pacific Islander and Asian Family Center