



RE: Support of HB 5014

Co-Chairs Senator Frederick and Representative McLain and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 5014 and advocate for full funding to prepare educators to implement Oregon's Ethnic Studies Standards statewide and improve how schools collect data on students' race and ethnicity.

My name is Sol Mora and I am the Advocacy Director at the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC), an alliance of culturally specific community-based organizations dedicated to cross-cultural collective action for racial justice. As an organization, we strive to address institutional racism within our local and state systems and create viable pathways for communities of color, immigrants, and refugees to obtain self-determination, justice, and access to opportunities. Additionally, we are part of Oregon Partners for Education Justice (OPEJ), a network of community-based organizations, service-providers, and education advocates.

During my testimony today, I want to uplift two key priorities for CCC and OPEJ which we urge the committee to invest in: Senate Bill 1050 and House Bill 3288.

Senate Bill 1050 will provide \$7 million to prepare our educators across the state to implement Oregon's new Ethnic Studies Standards by 2026. We believe that the state has a responsibility to ensure educators have access to quality and robust training to feel well-versed, confident, and empowered in their ability to teach students about the rich histories and contributions of traditionally underrepresented ethnic and social groups. In 2017, CCC joined with our member organization APANO and other advocates to advance the nationally groundbreaking passage of House Bill 2845 requiring Ethnic Studies curriculum in grades K–12. Passed with bipartisan support, we must now take the next step in supporting our teachers to implement these standards. Successful implementation is critical because every student benefits from seeing themselves and their community represented in curriculum and learning about their classmates' diverse backgrounds and histories.

Additionally, another one of CCC's educational priorities is ensuring funding is dedicated to House Bill 3288 which will standardize the collection and reporting of data on students' race, ethnicity, written, and spoken languages. Currently, Oregon's public education system lacks a uniform framework for the collection and reporting of data on students' race and ethnicity. This lack of uniformity in data standards is detrimental to the quality of data about how students identify and share their experiences. No student should feel invisibilized or miscategorized, and we must create data infrastructure that sees and supports all of our students. In order for districts, educators, and other stakeholders to make the most informed and equitable decisions about our students' learning and well-being, including decisions about funding and program development, they need data that is accurate.



On behalf of CCC and OPEJ, we ask that the committee fully fund Senate Bill 1050 to prepare educators to implement Ethnic Studies Standards and House Bill 3288 to improve the quality of data on students' race and ethnicity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sol Mora
Advocacy Director