



**Mission:** Empower Oregon families experiencing disability in their pursuit of a whole life by expanding awareness, growing community, and equipping families.

March 30, 2023

Chair Dembrow

Vice-Chair Weber

Members of the Senate Committee on Education

**RE: Support of SB 1050 - Professional Development for Ethnic Studies**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **support of SB 1050**, which would provide K-12 educators across Oregon with the training and tools they need to successfully implement Oregon's Ethnic Studies standards by 2026 and continue the work that began in 2017 (HB 2845).

FACT Oregon is a family-led nonprofit that works toward a future where communities are accessible, inclusive, and empower the self-determination of people with disabilities. We support families, youth with disabilities, and partners to hold high expectations, navigate special education and disability systems and advocate for the supports and opportunities needed for youth with disabilities to thrive at home, in school, and in community. **Since 2012, we have served as the state and federally designated Parent Training and Information Center [PTI] for special education.**

The original Ethnic Studies Bill recognized and included people with disabilities in the definition of "social minority" groups whose histories, contributions and perspectives would be included in Oregon's new Ethnic Studies Standards. Ethnic Studies standards are critically important in creating more equitable and inclusive school communities because they will support educators and students in recognizing the systemic inequities and oppression experienced by historically marginalized ethnic and social groups, including those with disabilities.

Oregon has a responsibility to invest in professional development to give educators the tools they need to teach Ethnic Studies, interrupt racism and ableism, and create equitable schools that are inclusive and welcoming for all. We ask that you **vote YES on SB 1050** so educators receive the professional development to successfully implement the new standards in K-12 schools.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Christy Reese

Executive Director

FACT Oregon