

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Education Committee Chair Neron, Vice Chairs, and members of the committee, my name is Patricia Alvarado, and I work at Adelante Mujeres, a community-based nonprofit in Forest Grove. I am here to testify in support of HB 4082, and ask you to Invest in Summer Learning and fund it at \$50 million.

The children in our preschool and the girls in our Chicas afterschool program create trustful connections with caring adults who are bilingual and bicultural and understand their strengths and needs. We partner with families and Forest Grove, Hillsboro, and Beaverton School districts, to provide after-school and summer programming with a strong focus on social and emotional skills development such as students feeling a sense of belonging, trust in their abilities to accomplish their goals, a healthy sense of identity as Latinos, and a continuous love of learning.

Our preschool curriculum is aligned to the kindergarten readiness goals and our youth receive individual mentoring and tutoring to be successful in their academics, graduate from high school, and enroll in college.

I have seen the powerful impact that our preschool and after-school programs have on our youth of color, our English language learners, and our students with special needs. We can't let those children fall through the cracks of our broken school system. Children learn at home, in their community, not only in school. Culturally responsive organizations are the bridge between schools and families, and we empower parents and youth to be active members of their community.

Please vote yes on HB 4082, Invest in Summer Learning, and support our children of color.

Thank you for listening.

Patricia Alvarado