



# Oregon Association of Student Councils

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## **SB 1552 | Oral Testimony – Palacios\_Miles**

February 8, 2024

Senate Committee on Education  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

### **RE: Testimony in Support | Senate Bill 1552**

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 1552, specifically the policy regarding the youth advisory group that would serve as 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. The youth advisory group named in SB 1552 is one such way to do this, specifically for the youth of our state.

The youth advisory group would elevate the voices of students, between the ages of 14 to 18 years, 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, , are a foster child or have a parent involved in the criminal justice system, or are navigating poverty.

Members of this advisory group 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 Legislative Assembly and Governor every two years.



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The advisory group would also have the ability to shape the creation of regional youth leadership networks. SB 1552 requires that membership includes two youth members serving their peers from every Education Service District in Oregon. This will help us ensure that there is equitable representation of our state's many rich geographic and cultural regions.

This policy received bi-partisan support and passed out of its policy committee in the 2021 and 2022 legislative sessions, and again in the 2023 legislative session when it was passed by this committee.

When the fiscal is set it will include one permanent, Operations & Policy Analyst 4 position and one permanent, part-time Administrative Specialist 1 position, as well as funding to support the group 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