

March 19, 2025

Chair Courtney Neron
Vice-Chair Emily McIntire
Vice-Chair April Dobson
Members of the House Education Committee

RE: Opposition to HB 2007 – Relating to Summer Learning; Declaring an Emergency

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chair McIntire, Vice-Chair Dobson, and Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Leticia Aguilar, and I am the Associate Director of Education Programs at Adelante Mujeres. Our organization serves youth and families in Hillsboro, Forest Grove and Beaverton School Districts, providing critical programs that support their academic and personal growth.

On behalf of the children and families we serve, I urge you not to support HB 2007 as currently written. This bill falls short in addressing the full spectrum of support our youth need to succeed. While literacy development is important, effective summer learning programs should integrate academics, social and emotional growth, and enrichment. HB 2007's singular focus on literacy neglects the essential role of holistic, developmentally appropriate programs that foster students' overall well-being, social-emotional growth, and future aspirations.

Our youth learn not only in schools but also through community-based summer and afterschool programs, which provide essential opportunities for engagement beyond the classroom. Programs like Chicas Youth Development Program help students develop leadership skills, confidence, and a sense of belonging—all of which contribute to higher academic achievement during the school year. Unfortunately, HB 2007 does not recognize or invest in these critical afterschool programs, missing a vital opportunity to support students in a meaningful and lasting way.

I urge this committee to build upon the progress made with last year's HB 4082 and ensure that Oregon's youth receive the comprehensive summer and afterschool programming they need to thrive. Families, educators, and community organizations have already voiced strong support for expanding access to holistic learning opportunities. It is crucial that we

honor this commitment and advocate for policies that truly serve the diverse needs of our students.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I encourage you to prioritize policies that provide comprehensive and equitable learning opportunities for all Oregon students.

In community,

Leticia Aguilar
Associate Director of Education Programs
Adelante Mujeres