

Submitter: Genesis Calderon-Martinez
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1538

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 1538-5.

Children should not have to wonder whether their right to education will survive the next election cycle. While many student protections currently exist at the federal level, recent history has shown us that those protections are fragile and can be rolled back without warning. Oregon has both the power and the responsibility to ensure that every child's right to learn is protected in state law.

As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. reminded us, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." When students are excluded, targeted, or made to feel unsafe in schools, we create systems that decide who belongs and who does not. Denying access to education — directly or indirectly — is a form of oppression that reinforces caste-like structures and limits a child's future before it even begins.

SB 1538-5 sends a clear message: all students belong in Oregon schools, and their rights are not conditional. This bill protects dignity, safety, and opportunity for every child, regardless of background or identity.

I urge you to pass SB 1538-5 and stand firmly for Oregon's students.

Thank you,
Genesis Calderon-Martinez, MBA, SHRM-SCP
Community & Culture Program Manager