**Cultivating
Confident, Creative
Compassionate Leaders**

March 4, 2019

My name is Kali Thorne-Ladd, and I am the Executive Director at KairosPDX.
KairosPDX is an education nonprofit focused on transforming education through a model
built on love and inclusion that elevates the voices of historically underserved children,
their families, and their communities. Our work includes an early learning network, a
multicultural service learning academy, and family connections program to achieve this
mission.

We are in strong support of HB 2440 to take a step toward more equitable education for
all of Oregon's children and youth, including Latino students. Many children of color
face barriers in access to a high-quality education that meet their unique needs, resulting
in disparities in outcomes across the educational spectrum.

Based on our work with the African-American/Black Student Success Plan, we believe
these kind of statewide, comprehensive plans to advance educational equity through
culturally specific and culturally responsive strategies are critical to the success of
students of color. The African-American/Black Student Success Plan has been a key part
of addressing the pressing disparities impacting Oregon's African-American/Black
students. By bringing together various stakeholders with expertise in education and
community, the African-American/Black Student Success Plan has launched a
comprehensive approach to address all indicators of student success.

At KairosPDX, we believe in an Oregon where all of our children thrive, including our
historically underserved students. Based on our experience with the African-
American/Black Student Success Plan, we know that culturally-specific approaches to
education and addressing disparities are critical to the success of Oregon's students of
color. Like our African-American students, Latino students would greatly benefit from a
plan that addresses the historic inequities and unique barriers facing students.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 2440.

Sincerely,
Kali Thorne-Ladd
Executive Director
KairosPDX