

April 11, 2019

Joint Committee on Student Success
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chairs Roblan and Smith Warner, Co-Vice Chairs Knopp and Smith, and members of the Committee,

Neighborhood Partnerships is a statewide non-profit organization that works through policy and program delivery to increase opportunity for Oregonians, particularly Oregonians with low incomes. We are all too aware of the importance of our education systems in helping individuals succeed and keeping our communities strong.

I am writing today to ask for your yes vote in support of HB 2019, which would move Oregon closer to an educational system that is designed and supported to deliver strong educational outcomes to all parts of the state, to communities of color, and to children from communities with low incomes and fewer resources. We believe that every child in Oregon deserves to grow up knowing that they have a bright future, and that their community is supporting them as they develop to their full potential.

We know that today in Oregon, too many children give up too soon, checking out in middle school, dropping out of high school, and then failing to complete post-high school training or education. Oregon cannot afford to lose this wealth of talent and potential. Our communities need the strengths and creativity that our youth hold, and our youth need to develop the knowledge and skills to sustain themselves and their families.

Neighborhood Partnerships strongly supports the many aspects of HB 2019 that would target resources and strategies where they are most needed, in culturally specific and community-designed approaches. We know that this kind of targeted, community specific program design is most likely to result in successful students and equitable educational outcomes across Oregon.

Thank you for your hard work on this proposal, and your service to Oregon. I urge your support of HB 2019.



Janet Byrd
Executive Director, Neighborhood Partnerships