

**Kate Brown**  
Governor



**Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office**  
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"  
421 SW Oak Street, Portland, OR 97204  
O 503.302.9725  
Email: [oaco.mail@oregon.gov](mailto:oaco.mail@oregon.gov)

Testimony in Support of HB 3310  
April 15, 2019 at 3pm, Hearing Room C  
House Committee on Rules

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs House Democratic Leader Williamson and House Republican Leader Wilson, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Commission for Women and the Oregon Commissions on Black Affairs, Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, and Hispanic Affairs, strongly support HB 3310. HB 3310 provides school districts, education service districts (ESD), and community colleges a community-driven process to address election structures that align to the National Voting Rights Act.

"One person One vote" is a core American belief. It is a distinctively American clarion call for equality and individual empowerment through the right to vote. This bill establishes that signature right as it applies to the local governing institutions of our system of public education, our school districts. Representation in public education is core to our American ideals of Equal Protection under the law. The Supreme Court of the United States has written that public education is at the foundation of democratic government and cited that as its reason for rejecting the doctrine of segregation in public education. *Brown v. Board of Education* 347 U.S. 493 (1954). Without proper structural mechanisms in place, public schools are frequently targeted as avenues for abuses that perpetuate inequality against underrepresented minorities. *Goss v. Board of Education* (1963); *Griffin v. County School Board* (1964); *Green v. County School Board* (1969). Exempting school districts from the requirements of representative government undermines our democratic institutions of government and leaves the rights of women and minorities vulnerable.

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions remain deeply concerned about the effects of disproportionate discipline and opportunities within our educational systems for women and people of color. The right to equal representation in our school systems of local governance is an essential first priority in ensuring a fair and successful education for all of Oregon's people.

We strongly support HB 3310, and urge its immediate implementation to help our state achieve its educational goals.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Morris Collin, OCFW Commissioner

Dr. Barbara Spencer, OCFW Chair

Chanpone Sinlapasai-Okamura, OCAPIA Chair

Angela Addae, OCBA Commissioner

Jamal T. Fox, OCBA Chair

Irma Linda Castillo, OCHA Chair

**OR Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs**

Chanpone Sinlapasai-Okamura, Chair  
David Yuen Tam, Vice Chair  
Legislative members:  
Senator Michael Dembrow  
Representative Carla Piluso

**OR Commission on Black Affairs**

Jamal T. Fox, Chair  
Lawanda Manning, Vice Chair  
Legislative members:  
Representative Janelle Bynum

**OR Commission on Hispanic Affairs**

Irma Linda Castillo, Chair  
Dr. Daniel López-Cevallos, Vice Chair  
Legislative members:  
Senator Sara Gelser  
Representative Teresa Alonso León

**OR Commission for Women**

Dr. Barbara Spencer, Chair  
Vice Chair (vacant)  
Legislative members:  
Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson  
Representative Sheri Schouten

**Staff**

Lucy Baker, Administrator  
Nancy Kramer, Executive Assistant  
Dr. Connie Kim-Gervey,  
Researcher/Policy Analyst