



We are a non-profit education advocacy organization focused on ensuring all students receive a high quality, relevant education, especially those whose boundless potential is overlooked and under-tapped because of their skin color, zip code, first language, or disability.

May 19, 2019

Dear Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and the members of the Senate Education Committee:

On behalf of Stand for Children, I am writing to urge your support of HB 2023. This bill will help support the implementation of ethnic studies statewide by directing:

- The Oregon State Board of Education to adopt textbooks and instructional materials that address the contributions and roles of Native Americans, people of African, Asian, Pacific Island, Chicano, Latino or Middle Eastern descent, women, people with disabilities, immigrants, refugees and individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, to the economic, political and social development of Oregon and the United States; and
- The Oregon Department of Education to provide professional development to teachers and administrators on ethnic studies standards.

Stand for Children supports HB 2023 because we believe ethnic studies, culturally responsive practices, and culturally sustaining pedagogy are critical to increasing student engagement and success.

Researchers from Stanford examined the research on culturally relevant pedagogy and studied the implementation of ethnic studies in the San Francisco Unified School District over several years. In their study, researchers found that ethnic studies, when implemented well, had large positive effects on student outcomes like, attendance and GPA. Both of those outcomes are important predictors of high school graduation and post-secondary persistence.

HB 2023 will not only help ensure that the diversity of our students and our communities are reflected in Oregon's history and the history of the United States; it will also help educators and students engage in a rigorous and rich study of our shared history, with the inclusion of communities that have been historically underrepresented. Along with culturally responsive practices, we believe these efforts to implement ethnic studies will have a significant impact on our students, schools, and communities.

Please vote YES on HB 2023. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Parasa Chanramy". The signature is stylized with large, overlapping loops.

Parasa Chanramy  
Policy & Implementation Director