

SUPPORT TEACHERS WITH CULTURAL & LINGUISTIC EXPERTISE: PASS HB 2001

From the Desk of Senator Rob Wagner



Students, school districts and communities benefit from teachers who have cultural or linguistic expertise and who can relate and respond to the unique needs of students and families with cultural or linguistic diversity. For example, students whose first language is Russian would benefit from a teacher who speaks Russian.

A YES vote on House Bill 2001 means improving outcomes for all Oregon students by continuing the Oregon State Legislature's longstanding commitment to diversifying Oregon's teaching staff.

In 2019, the Legislative Assembly passed the Student Success Act and committed resources for developing and implementing professional development programs and training programs, **including critical programs that increase the cultural and linguistic diversity of educators.**

However, an Oregon state law that requires districts to follow a "last in, first out" policy in the event of layoffs is putting decades of commitment and progress at risk, as many teachers with cultural or linguistic expertise are the most recent hires. **HB 2001 ensures cultural or linguistic expertise are factors in layoff determinations, within and in addition to existing seniority considerations.**

A yes vote today will improve outcomes for all Oregon students and acknowledge the importance of cultural or linguistic expertise of Oregon teachers.

Our teachers and students are counting on you. **Please vote YES on HB 2001.**

Thank you,

