From the Desk of Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon





## OSA and Oregon's Public Universities Support a **Yes** Vote on HB 2590A

The time to act is now. A diverse community of students and educators is foundational to a vibrant and well-rounded academic experience. Building an environment that supports justice, equity, diversity and inclusion is a priority on every campus. It vital that universities continue to build on work that is already underway. HB 2590A will help inform and improve these efforts.

Oregon's public universities are significantly more racially and ethnically diverse than they were one decade ago, and the transformation will continue.

The Student Voices bill offers a unique opportunity for Oregon legislators to work with postsecondary students, alumni, stakeholders, faculty and staff to gain a better understanding of the critical student supports already in place at universities and opportunities for expansion.

The goals of the legislation match the **goals** of Oregon's seven public universities and Oregon Student Association:

- Assuring student voices are centered in budget and university discussions,
- Ensuring a safe, supportive campus culture that welcomes all students,
- Identifying best practices that promote equitable student success,
- Locating areas for improvement and opportunities to close current achievement gaps and strengthen outcomes for underrepresented students,
- Creating pipelines that diversify Oregon's workforce and promote successful careers, and
- Understanding the resources necessary to achieve these critical goals.

This approach is the first step in recognizing the problems our students face and starts taking action to better understand the lives and experiences of our students.

Vote **Yes** on HB 2590A the Student Voices Bill