

Testimony in support of HB2329 (The Salinas Bill)

Dear Legislators,

I am in strong support of more careful thought going into a state song with house bill HCR 2329 (the Salinas bill). I was born in Oregon, grew up in Portland and raised my two children at the edge of the Siuslaw Forest on the Oregon Coast. In teaching, facilitating and writing around the state, I was able to meet children and adults all over Oregon. They and we all, deserve a song far more inclusive than the barely revised original song. This is a time and an opportunity for change.

What a gift it could be to Oregon to reach out to all communities, teachers, songwriters, song singers, poets and writers, young and old, to work on a song that can honor this beautiful state of ours and evoke loyalty and good will from its residents. A song every Oregonian could sing knowing they have a voice in the verses.

Words matter. Stories matter. Inclusion matters, and we have chances to do all of this in the smallest and largest of ways. I hope you give us that chance.

Sincerely,

Melissa Madenski