

Good afternoon, Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs Neron, and Weber, and Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Molly Miller and I am a second-year ASB officer at Tualatin Highschool.

I am here in support of HB 3363 because I believe that creating an inclusive and diverse environment is key in making executive decisions at all levels. As an elected official on my school's student council, I am constantly tasked with decisions that affect the student body. My perspective is a minuscule portion of the large variety of students that are represented, not only at my school but in Oregon. With that being said, while creating educational policies, it is vital to keep all students in mind (this includes students from all backgrounds, ethnicities, and races). This collaborative would provide a voice for those who are often underappreciated and underrepresented. By requiring that at least 70% of youth active in the collaborative, be from historically underserved communities, we are building a platform where minority voices can be meaningfully contributed to the decision-making process. Although I do not personally understand what that feels like, I see the underrepresentation at my school, work, on social media, and throughout the government. Almost every teacher that I have had throughout my K-12 education has been white, this also includes my coaches and tutors that I have had as well. Until this year, we have had only one black president sworn in, and to remind you we are in the year 2021. In order for Oregon's education system to expand and improve we must lift up these underrepresented students, and start expanding perspectives. I urge you to support House Bill 3363 because our education system deserves better, and our students deserve better. It is time that all students and families are represented and accounted for while getting an education.

Thank you.