



**RE: SB 5513**

Co-Chair Frederick  
Co-Chair McLain  
Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

March 31, 2021

Dear Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain, and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education, on behalf of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), and as a member of the Oregon Partners for Education Justice, I would like to **share our strong support for SB 5513.**

APANO is a statewide organization that unites Asian and Pacific Islanders to build power, develop leaders, and advance equity through organizing, advocacy, community development, and cultural work. We are committed to investing in BIPOC students and cultivating environments built on trust and connections, and SB 5513 would ensure this continues.

The passage of the Student Success Act in 2019 was a victory for our communities to see a different outcome for their futures. As we see schools transition to the hybrid model, students arrive back into an environment that is unprepared for the accumulated stress, trauma, and experiences they carry with them from the pandemic. It is critical that we provide support to all students, especially BIPOC students who are historically underserved and are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. SB 5513 would provide a step to much needed resources for our Pacific Islander, Asian, and BIPOC communities.

Considering the lack of adequate resources during CDL, timely support to all students, especially for BIPOC students, is essential. Next school year will be a significant time for students to focus on their learning. SB 5513 has the potential to support both the investment in our teachers and students by improving instruction methods and staff training and applying both trauma-informed and restorative practices in our schools.

Equity remains at the center of our mission and vision. SB 5513 offers a chance to address systemic inequities in our schools and classrooms. **I strongly recommend that this Committee invest in these community-driven priorities by fully funding the Student Success Act.**

Sincerely,

Lanea Olson, Asian Youth Organizer

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