

Testimony in support, SB5513
Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
Wednesday March 31st, 2021 1PM PST

Co-Chair Sen Federick, Co-Chair Rep McLain, Senators Dembow, Thomsen and
Representatives Alonso Leon, Levy, Ruiz, Werner Reschke

For the record, my name is Roberto Gamboa, I serve as a Director of Operations and Community Development for EUVALCREE. I also serve as a Director on the Educator Advancement Council and participate on the Rules Advisory Committee for ODE. Euvalcree is a community based organization that serves 8 counties in Eastern Oregon and is a member organization of the Oregon Partners for Educational Justice.

Today I am writing to ask you to fully support the following budget priorities, many of which are included in the Governor's Recommended Budget for 2021-23. We value the importance of community driven equity work, it is very important that these budget recommendations move forward in order to be able to support our students with different needs in order to achieve equitable and successful outcomes. We hope that with your support these recommendations listed below will be achieved.

- **\$27.7 million** for the **Early Childhood Equity Fund** to expand access to culturally specific early learning programs provided by community-based organizations and Tribal Nations.
- **\$28.1 million** to support the **Early Childhood Professional Learning System.**
- **\$986.2 million** for the **Student Investment Account**, the state's largest equity investment designed to close academic disparities and meet the mental and behavioral health needs of historically underserved student populations.
- **\$6.3 million** for **Summer Learning Grants for Title I Schools.**
- **\$25.2 million** for **Oregon's Statewide Equity Plans**, including:
 - **\$14.4 million** for the **Black/African American Student Success Plan**
 - **\$4.1 million** for the **Latino/a/x and Indigenous Student Success Plan**
 - **\$8.4 million** for the **American Indian/Alaska Native Student Success Plan**
- Increased investment in the **Educator Advancement Council**, including new investments to **recruit, retain, and support a diverse educator workforce**; **\$14 million** to develop an **anti-racism initiative for educators** and create an **Indigenous and Tribal Educator Institute**; and **\$1.3 million** to provide **professional learning opportunities for Ethnic Studies [SB 227].**

Thank you committee members for your time and positive consideration.

Sincerely,

Roberto Gamboa
Director of Operations and Community Development
Euvalcree