

House Bill 3363 Testimony

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

My name is Naasei Lynn and I am an African-American student at Tualatin High School in the Tigard-Tualatin School District, which is located in the Portland Metro Area.

I serve on Tualatin ASB as a second-year officer as well as the Tigard Tualatin Student Union, which is dedicated to raising the voices of students within the district in order to create a safe and inclusive environment for all students. As a student of color in Oregon, I speak to represent the thousands of my peers who have been left disadvantaged by a lack of education policies to build foundations of racial equity within the classroom. With no hesitation, I believe passing House Bill 3363 would be a vital step in giving further representation to our underserved students while simultaneously laying the groundwork for establishing racial equity in our communities. Developing an education policy with racial equity in mind is crucial in even beginning to set the table for racial equity in our schools. The need for engaging in conversations about race and how it relates to school is as high as ever, and passing this legislation would open the door for these important conversations to take place.

The protests that occurred in May and continued throughout the summer allowed for a global conversation about racial inequality, and how to take the necessary actions to eradicate it from all environments. I believe it is time for us to have our conversation on this topic. I urge you to vote yes on House Bill 3363, in order to give a voice to the students who need to be heard the most.