

Good afternoon, Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs Neron and Weber, and Members of the House Education Committee. For the record, my name is Shea Carlberg and I'm a senior at Tualatin High School.

I am here in support of HB 3363 because it brings diverse student voices to decisions that affect them firsthand. As a member of my school's leadership team, I have seen time and time again the failures of faculty who overlook and/or ignore minority and affinity groups, despite the fact that they make up a significant portion of the student body.

While working on events for unity at my school, I have witnessed this as my peers get dismissed and are often being represented for the first time by our leadership team. A lot of people don't even know about our affinity groups since they have little to no platform to share how things could be more representative and equal for them. They are too often left out of discussions of policy and change on all levels. I haven't experienced this inequity myself, however, seeing many peers who I care about that don't get the same attention that students that look like me do, I've noticed how relevant and important it is that this bill gets passed in order to bring more voices to light.

The bill has shown its commitment to these groups with guidelines laid out for representatives from culturally-specific groups and organizations included as well as historically underserved communities.

Knowing that this is an issue within my district and to schools nearby, I feel as though this is a problem not only in my community but consistent throughout the state, and I want to be an ally for those who fall victim to this treatment.

In the exact place where students are growing and forming their own opinions, they have limited opportunities to be and feel heard. This bill provides an essential platform for passionate students to lead in important topics of discussion that ultimately affect their lives and futures. Thank you again for your time and opportunity to testify.

I really hope you vote yes for HB 3363 to amplify student voices like those of my peers in a time when we need it most.