

April 27, 2021

Members of the House Rules Committee,

The Community Alliance for Public Education (CAPE) urges you to vote against HB 2001 in any form.

Identifying teacher union seniority as a major factor in the lack of teacher diversity is without merit. HB 2001 represents an expedient and unethical use of a real equity problem to further an unspoken political agenda seeking to weaken Oregon education unions.

HB 2001 is a transparent attack on a fundamental element in unions across the world: A respect for skill development gained through years of study and work.

In addition to the anti-union aspects of HB 2001, the bill does precious little to improve teacher diversity:

1. There have been no large-scale teacher layoffs in Oregon in recent years, nor are they forecast. Thus, HB 2001 is a solution in search of a problem.
2. HB 2001 is a quick fix non-solution that is presented as actually addressing the issue of teacher diversity. It does nothing to address the real issues that cause this critical social problem. Among them are: A lack of serious recruitment; unaffordable higher education; cultural isolation in the workplace; lack of mentorship; and unsupportive work environments. Those are not resolved by quick fixes.

We ask all members of the House Rules Committee to look deeper into the motivations of key authors of this bill. We ask you to reject the false premise, the “Big Lie”, that layoffs are a significant element in lack of teacher diversity.

Please vote against HB 2001 in any of its forms.

Respectfully,

Members of the CAPE Steering Committee:

Roscoe Caron
Bob Cassidy
Deanna Chappell
Colleen Hunter
Mikell Harshbarger
Larry Lewin
Carrie Ann Naumoff