

Members of the House Education Committee,

I am a retired teacher of Dual Language Immersion. I was a teacher of both English and Spanish learners in a variety of types of bilingual programs, where I taught students in both English and Spanish. I am a fluent bilingual speaker of both languages.

HB 2056 is long overdue. For parents of students who participated in the Dual Immersion Program I taught 6th grade in in Canby, it became a struggle for parents to keep their children in the program once they reached high school, principally due to the fact that they would have to take any of their courses done in Spanish language as an elective, in spite of the fact that the only significant difference in course content is the language the courses are taught in. In a high school Language Arts class, students are doing things like analyzing literature. That skill can be taught and practiced in any language and is 100% transferrable to any language a student speaks now or in the future.

Similarly, giving bilingual students credit for a world language if their second language is English and they are fluent in their first language is also long over due. Over the years, I have watched students who are orally fluent in Spanish sit in classes that teach basic conversational Spanish because that is all the school offers and it is a requirement that must be fulfilled, in spite of the students' level of Spanish fluency, to receive the credit needed. That is silly and a waste of students' time when there are so many other things they could be learning.

If we want to build truly bilingual citizens, something our country is sorely lacking in comparison to much of the world, this is a bill we should support. I hope you will support this bill.