



VOICES UNITED.  
OPPORTUNITY REIMAGINED.

2/23/2021

House Committee on Education  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 2166

Dear Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Weber, and  
Members of the Committee,

Our Children Oregon's (OCO) mission is to be a voice and force for the common good for all Oregon children, ensuring all children have the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential. OCO is the result of the merger between two historic Oregon non-profits: The Children's Trust Fund of Oregon and Children First for Oregon. We elevate data and lived experience to prioritize children and center communities. We continue to connect a community of 115 advocates, coalitions, and organizations through The Children's Agenda, a legislative agenda championing equitable state legislative policies and shared investments to improve the lives of Oregon's children and their families.

HB 2166 with the -1 amendment addresses several items on the 2021 Children's Agenda including two of our priority issues by:

- beginning to address systemic racism within our public schools to build an equitable educational system (a priority of the 2021 Children's Agenda),
- addressing suspension and expulsions in early childhood settings (SB 236 and addressing this issue is a priority on the 2021 Children's Agenda), and
- supporting the diversification of the educator workforce to better reflect our student populations through non-traditional pathways and making changes to the Educator Advancement Council.

Thank you for your consideration, and we urge you to support HB 2166.

From the Our Children Oregon Team,  
Chis Coughlin, Policy, Advocacy, and Engagement Director  
Jenifer Wagley, Executive Director

View the 2021 Children's Agenda at [www.ourchildrenoregon.org/2021-childrens-agenda](http://www.ourchildrenoregon.org/2021-childrens-agenda)

## The Children's Agenda

*is a broad slate of equitable investments and policy solutions to meet the holistic needs of Oregon children, youth, and their families.*



P.O. Box 14694  
Portland, OR 97293  
503.236.9754

[ourchildrenoregon.org](http://ourchildrenoregon.org)