



Teresa Alonso Leon
State Representative

February 22, 2021

Vice Chairs Neron and Weber and members of the House Education Committee,

For the record, my name is Teresa Alonso Leon, and I am the Representative for House District 22 which incorporates Woodburn through the north part of Salem. I am here to speak on SB 328. I also serve as Chair of the Education Committee.

I am writing today in support of HB 2166. The Governor's Racial Justice Council Education Equity bill calls for an advisory group to do the much needed work of reviewing equity in the education system of this state for all grades from prekindergarten through post-secondary education. The advisory group will create a statewide social emotional framework for students and will build and form educator equity goals to ensure that Oregon's teaching force reflects the diversity of its students. Additionally, this bill will establish an early childhood suspension and prevention program and an Educator Advancement Council.

Oregon was established as a majority white state and the centering of whiteness runs through the fabric of our state, including in our education systems. Oregon's systemic racism and inequities are products of design. But they can be resigned. With the thoughtful and deliberate ideas set forth in HB 2166, we can redesign our education system, keeping all of Oregon students' identities and needs in mind.

I support HB 2166 and am proud to see the Governor's Racial Justice Council's equity work move toward action. HB 2166 will not only improve the experience of many of our students in the classroom, it will also keep us moving toward realizing the American dream for all people in our state. I urge you in joining me to support this necessary and transformative bill.

Sincerely,

Teresa Alonso Leon