



Teresa Alonso Leon
State Representative

February 25, 2021

Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Holvey, and honorable members of the 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 writing today in support of HB 2167.

As a member of the Governor's Racial Justice Council's (RJC) Education Recovery Committee, this bill is very important to me. I was proud to work alongside other Council members to create this bill. This legislation seeks to codify the Racial Justice Council, putting into statute requirements for Governor's and state agencies to engage with BIPOC and Tribal communities as part of their budget development and legislative agendas. It will also create an equity-centered system to maintain support for agencies in program development and implementation.

Oregon was established as a majority white state and the centering of whiteness runs through the fabric of our state, including in our governance systems. Oregon's systemic racism and inequities are products of design. HB 2167 will disrupt and dismantle systemic bias and structural racism by redistributing the power, influence, opportunities, and distribution of resources in order to achieve racial justice in our state.

I support HB 2167 and I believe it is another big step in giving more people a seat at the decision making table in Oregon, making our state a place where a person's race no longer predicts their outcomes.

Sincerely,

Teresa Alonso Leon