



LatinoNetwork

**Testimony of Anthony Castaneda, Policy Manager,
Regarding HB 4412
House Committee on Education
February 2, 2022**

Dear Chair Teresa Alonso Leon, Vice Chair Courtney Neron, Vice Chair Suzanne Weber, and members of the committee,

Latino Network joins the Oregon Partners for Education Justice, in *support* of HB 4412 to fund professional development for educators. Let's keep Oregon's promise.

Latino Network is a culturally specific nonprofit serving Latino children, youth, and families in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties. Last year, Latino Network provided transformative services to over ten thousand families in the areas of education & mentorship, professional & leadership development, community healing, and family stability.

In 2017, the Oregon Legislature passed a landmark Ethnic Studies standard with *bipartisan support* to ensure our K-12 education system honors and integrates the rich and unique histories, contributions, and perspectives of traditionally underrepresented ethnic and social minority groups.

More recently, in response to the need to build alternative pathways for teachers, Latino Network has helped launch the Multnomah Diverse Educators Pathway (MDEP) program. MDEP is a new collaboration between MESD, Latino Network, other community-based organizations, school districts, and higher education aimed at increasing racial and linguistic diversity among our teaching force in Multnomah County school districts. There are currently 12 future educators from Latino Network in the program, and Latino Network is currently recruiting for the next cohort. Our future teachers, especially those interested in U.S. history, civics, and other social studies, are excited to teach Ethnic Studies curriculum with a holistic lens.

By keeping Oregon's promise and commitment to the bipartisan education standards adopted in 2017, funding for professional development will positively impact educators and students. As demonstrated by programs, like MDEP, professionals are attracted to new exciting opportunities and are bringing valuable transferable skills into the classroom. Teachers want to teach a holistic curriculum and want professional development to do it effectively and earnestly. Students will become more engaged by material reflecting all contributions and perspectives.

Latino Network urges members of the committee to vote **Yes on HB 4112**. The time for investments in professional development is now. Thank you for your time and consideration.