



February 1st, 2022

Chair Teresa Alonso Leon
Vice-Chair Courtney Neron
Vice-Chair Suzanne Weber
Members of the House Education Committee

RE: HB 4112: relating to Ethnic Studies Professional Development

Good afternoon Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chairs Neron and Weber, and members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Jackson Weinberg, I use He/She pronouns. I am a Senior at Cleveland High School in Portland. I am also the Executive Director of Policy for Oregon Student Voice and a member of the Oregon Partners in Education Justice. Oregon Student Voice is a state-wide, student-led nonprofit that empowers students in education decision-making.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for HB 4112. **Oregon has a responsibility to train and support educators to implement Ethnic Studies in K-12 schools.** For new standards or curriculum adoptions to be successful, there must be training and support associated with them. Otherwise, educators may not have the proper support and resources to teach these standards in a culturally competent way, which would result in added harm to students.

We also have a duty to students to implement these standards to the best of our ability. We made a promise with HB 2845 that we would develop Ethnic Studies standards. It is time to deliver on that promise and pass funding for Ethnic Studies professional development to ensure that these standards are taught effectively and integrate the rich and unique histories, contributions, and perspectives of traditionally underrepresented ethnic and social minority groups.

As teachers begin to integrate Ethnic Studies into their curriculum, Oregon has a responsibility to meaningfully and strategically invest in its implementation. This will fulfill Oregon's promise

of new Ethnic Studies standards. As a reminder for why all this is important, Ethnic Studies will boost student engagement, address academic disparities, and create culturally and racially affirming learning environments that benefit all students.

In closing, please **vote YES on HB 4112**, an essential step toward advancing a more inclusive, equitable, and racially just education system for all of Oregon's students.

Sincerely,
Oregon Student Voice

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