

Good afternoon, Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs Neron, and Weber, and Members of the House Education Committee. My name is Devin Lomax and I'm a freshman at David Douglas high school and live in southeast Portland, I have 3 brothers who all can relate to the effects of how schools have not implemented the equity that HB4099 will bring. As a Male of color, I feel that it's time we talk about bringing equity to the frontline when it comes to addressing policies that have affected males of color when it comes to disciplinary action which in return ends up affecting students of color academically. I want to see equity when it comes to students of color academically or disciplinary.

I'm in full support of HB 4099 because I think that High School students should have input on policies or laws that may affect them in their communities and HB4099 will help bring equity to all schools in Oregon. I think it's important for students to have a voice and know what's going on because involvement is how you get to know how students feel firsthand when it comes to a school's climate. I always feel that the school system is unfair to males of color because of how we get harsher treatment when it comes to disciplinary action and I personally would like to see change happen and old stigmas break down. This is why I believe HB 4099 is good.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I urge you to vote yes on HB 4099.