

Dear Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs Neron and Weber, and Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Opal Primozich. I am a junior at McMinnville High School, as well as the State President of Oregon Association of Student Councils. I'm writing today in earnest support of HB 4099, and urging you to follow suit.

A few months ago, a friend and "colleague" of mine, (the OASC State President from two years ago), messaged me about an opportunity to get involved in this legislation. As the newly elected State President with a passion for leadership and making change, I was more than eager to to jump right in. As I surrounded myself with highly educated and driven people striving to better the representation of Oregon students, I quickly realized how essential this effort was.

Students of color in our communities are historically underserved and underrepresented. This can be seen in communities everywhere - issues of racial equity and justice stain our history so deeply. Recently, there have been representations of outright racism in our schools. I have personally witnessed student voice being oppressed by authorities on a multitude of levels. HB 4099 presents the state legislature with the prospect of amplified proactivity on a statewide (and even national) level.

We need to invest in our students. We need to amplify the voices of underserved people and communities. We need to work towards a future of equity and justice - and the students of today represent that future and provide insight that cannot be found anywhere else. This is our chance to bring that perspective to the forefront of where it matters most.

Thank you for your time. For the representation and education of Oregon Students, I urge you to vote "yes" on HB 4099.