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September 27, 2023

Chair Kate Lieber

Vice-Chair Tim Knopp

Members of the Senate Interim Committee on Rules and Executive Appointments

RE: Confirmation of ODE Director Dr. Charlene Williams

Dear Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp and members of the Senate Interim Committee On Rules and Executive Appointments,

On behalf of Foundations for a Better Oregon (FBO), we would like to thank you for the opportunity to express our **strong support for the confirmation of Dr. Charlene Williams as the next Director of the Oregon Department of Education**. Foundations for a Better Oregon (FBO) is a project of Oregon's five largest foundations, working to ensure Oregon's public systems support every child to learn, grow, and thrive.

Dr. Williams is a highly accomplished, skilled, and passionate educator and administrator with a strong record of serving and uplifting all children. Upon stepping into leadership as ODE's Interim Director, she has meaningfully engaged youth and communities across Oregon and is now setting a clear and compelling vision for our public education system. We are heartened by Dr. Williams' commitment and plans to improve student achievement; promote students' well-being and sense of belonging; and advance shared accountability and system transparency. Her strong willingness to work in partnership with local communities and families will be essential to creating a learning ecosystem that fulfills every Oregon child's aspirations and needs.

We urge the Committee to support the appointment of Dr. Charlene Williams.

Sincerely,

Whitney Grubbs
Executive Director
Foundations for a Better Oregon