



September 26, 2023

**Dear Members of The Senate Rules & Executive Appointments Committee:**

This letter is sent on behalf of the African & African American Pastors/Imams in support of the confirmation of Dr. Charlene Williams as the newly appointed Director of Education for the State of Oregon.

Coalition of African & African American Pastors/Imams (CAAAP) mission is to improve the quality of life within our local community by establishing meaningful social, cultural, and economic paradigms of equitable participation.” CAAAP represents 120 black churches representing 30,000 black residents in the Tri-County area.

We collectively affirm this appointment and are poised to be of support in helping ensure that Dr. Williams has what is necessary to implement a statewide vision for equitable education of Oregon’s students.

Our Coalition membership have every confidence that Dr. Williams’ leadership will encompass the knowledge, skills, courage and will, to address the historical educational gaps in access and opportunities that appear in early childhood, youth development, and K-12 education settings.

We look forward to your strong consideration and support in confirming this nomination of Dr. Williams. Dr. Charlene Williams is the right person, at the right time, to make a difference and reverse the current disparities and outcomes of African American/Black students who have not met benchmark. She has our collective and unanimous support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Levell Thomas  
Chair