



Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

Advocating for Equity and Diversity throughout Oregon

Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Hudson and Wrights, and members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Liz Fouter-Branch, I'm testifying on behalf of the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA), on which I serve as a commissioner.

OCBA serves the people of Oregon to empower and support the African American and Black community through our unique roles as policy advisors to Oregon state policymakers and leaders. The OCBA is a catalyst that allows partnerships between the state government and our community in rural and urban areas to ensure success for all African American and Black Oregonians by addressing longstanding and emerging issues at the policy level.

Today, I strongly urge the members of this committee to support the passage of HB 2750, which would prohibit charging fees or requiring participation in fundraising activities as a condition of participating in interscholastic activities.

HB 2750 matters because it seeks to use statewide initiatives fund rather than overburdening families and participants by paying fees or being required to participate in fundraising activities.

As a commissioner of the OCBA, our constituents often mention the high cost of extra-curricular fees over and above purchasing equipment and supplying food or snacks at practice. Eliminating charging fees or requiring participation in fundraising activities would relieve the stress from overburdened parents and students. Since district budgets vary from district to district, urban and rural communities would benefit from the relief of asking their athletes and their families to bear the burden of extra-curricular fees.

It is time to take some of the stressors away from our families and students and, in this case, make room in our state budget to cover extra-curricular fees. Please support the passage of HB 2750 so that we can continue to bridge the generational wealth gaps by providing small stress relief to low-income families.

Liz Fouter-Branch

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

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