



# Oregon Association of Student Councils

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## *HB 2656 | Written Testimony – Palacios\_Miles*

To: House Committee on Education  
From: Miles Palacios, Oregon Association of Student Councils  
RE: Support for HB 2656, Elevate Student Voice Act

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright, and members of the committee.

My name is Miles Palacios and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Association of Student Councils and support House Bill 2656.

Our association works with student leaders across the state of Oregon. These students have many different lived experiences and identities. We seek to be an organization that is as inclusive as it is impactful. To do so, we honor and recognize the experiences of each of our students by involving student voice at every level of our programs.

OASC wants our students to know more than anything that the power of their voice is critical to the economy of change. We center our programming on the tools they need to be able to engage with their peers and adult leaders and explain what it is that they are hoping for out of their experience as Oregon students. By centering the experiences of youth there is more opportunity for systemic changes in our education system.

We can teach them to use their voice, but adult leaders need to be willing to listen.

HB 2656 is an answer. By investing in this survey in partnership with the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority, we will be taking intentional steps forward in understanding how students view the climate and culture of their schools, the relationships they have with their peers and adult leaders, and their experiences as a whole.

This process would also prioritize the privacy and protection of our youth, allowing them the opportunity for honest feedback without identification or being singled out.

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright, and members of the committee – I urge your support.

Miles Palacios  
Oregon Association of Student Councils, Executive Director