



February 27, 2023

Chair Courtney Neron  
Vice-Chair Zach Hudson  
Vice-Chair Boomer Wright  
Members of the House of Education Committee

**RE: [HB 2710 – Increasing Transparency in Oregon School Spending](#)**

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Hudson, Vice-Chair Wright, and members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Patricia Alvarado from Adelante Mujeres. Also, a member of the OPEJ. The mission of Adelante Mujeres is to provide holistic education and empowerment opportunities to Latina women and families to ensure their full participation and active leadership in the community.

At OPEJ we are championing a racially just and community-centered education system for Oregon. We believe in the vision, wisdom, and leadership of impacted communities, and advocate for equitable policies and investments that eliminate disparities and empower historically underserved children.

I am testifying in support of HB 2710 because I believe with more accessible and transparent information, Oregon families, communities, and policymakers can better understand how public education funding is currently spent, and partner to improve how our state invests to eliminate educational inequities and enhance all students' learning experiences.

Chicas at Adelante Mujeres is an innovative youth development program that empowers Latina girls to develop their leadership potential, adopt healthy lifestyles, develop cultural identity, and achieve academic success with high school graduation and post-secondary education enrollment. Chicas promotes a pro-college culture through early intervention, family engagement, college readiness preparation, financial literacy, and academic support. We provide services to Latina youth from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade and for the past two years we have also supported Chicas in College with more than 140 girls in that program.

We partner with school districts to provide services to Latina youth and families in their schools and sign a contract year by year. School districts provide some financial support that represents a third of the real cost of the program. We at Adelante Mujeres look for other grants to cover the rest of the funding needed to serve youth in the district. We have the requirement of reporting to those grantors the usage of the funds they provide us, and we also report quarterly to the districts the amount of youth and parents we serve. Leadership at each district are responsible for assessing which state funding or grants they use to provide support to our program. However, sometimes they ask us, a Community Based Organization what funding are other districts using to fund us and make us responsible to present in the middle of the year to their board of directors to convince them to authorize the funding for the partnership in their district. This is confusing and creates extra work for community-based organizations serving students of color.

We believe that having clarity on what funds each school district gets and what is being used for creates an open and trustful relationship between schools, grassroots organizations, and families.



Adelante Mujeres supports HB 2710 as an essential step in ensuring that students from underserved communities receive an equitable and well-rounded education.

In partnership,

Patricia Alvarado  
Director of Education Programs