



March 1, 2023

To: House Committee on Education

RE: Support for HB 3178, Teacher Scholars Program expansion

From: Desi Nicodemus Clackamas ESD

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

My name is Desi Nicodemus, I work at Clackamas ESD as a Teacher Pathway Navigator which is funded by the EAC GYO funds and I also serve as a Milwaukie City Councilor. I am writing to express my support for HB 3178, which proposes to add an additional \$2,000 per year for up to 2 years for Culturally and Linguistically diverse teachers who are also first generation enrollees, for a total of \$12,000 per year per candidate. As someone who is passionate about education and diversity, I believe this bill is a step in the right direction for promoting equity in our education system.

It is essential we ensure that all students have access to a diverse range of teachers who understand their backgrounds and can connect with them on a personal level. By supporting Culturally and Linguistically diverse teachers who are also first-generation enrollees, we are not only promoting diversity in our classrooms, but we are also providing support to individuals who have overcome unique challenges to pursue a career in education.

I would like the committee to consider expanding this bill, to support non BIPOC first-generation enrollees living in rural areas as well. There are many challenges of living in a rural area. I believe it is important to ensure that these individuals have access to the same opportunities as those in urban areas. By expanding this bill to include non-BIPOC first-generation enrollees, we can ensure that more individuals have the opportunity to pursue a career in education.

However, I would like to emphasize any amendments should be made without diminishing the amount of people that can be awarded funds. I understand that there has been an increase in the number of individuals who have applied for this scholarship due to the efforts of statewide grow your own activities. Therefore, it is crucial that we continue to support as many qualified candidates as possible.

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In conclusion, I urge you to support HB 3178 and any amendments that promote equity in our education system. By supporting Culturally and Linguistically diverse teachers who are also first-generation enrollees, we can ensure that our classrooms are inclusive and that all students have access to quality education. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Desi Nicodemus

Clackamas ESD Teacher Pathway Navigator

Milwaukie City Counselor

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