



To: House Committee on Education
RE: Support of HB 3288

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 3288. My name is Sol Mora and I am the Advocacy Director at the Coalition of Communities of Color, an alliance of culturally specific community-based organizations dedicated to cross-cultural collective action for racial justice.

As an organization, we strive to address institutional racism within our local and state systems and create viable pathways for communities of color, immigrants, and refugees to obtain self-determination, justice, and access to opportunities. A key area of our work includes data collection, research, and analysis, specifically, exploring the impacts of data on communities of color and how policy decisions are made. Additionally, we are part of Oregon Partners for Education Justice, a network of community-based organizations, service-providers, and education advocates.

Currently, Oregon's public education system lacks a uniform framework for the collection and reporting of data on students' race and ethnicity. This lack of uniformity in data standards is detrimental to the quality of data about how students identify and share their experiences. Oftentimes, students' experiences are erased because of how data is structured or gathered. No student should feel invisibilized or miscategorized, and we must create data infrastructure that sees and supports all of our students.

Data on students' race and ethnicity is used for an array of important purposes at the state and local level, including policy design, program development, and funding decisions. In order for districts, educators, and other stakeholders to make the most informed and equitable decisions about our students' learning and wellbeing, they need data that is consistent. Communities of color are not a monolith and we must ensure that students have access to naming their ethnic and racial identities in ways that are comprehensive and standardized across districts.

House Bill 3288 is a common-sense solution that will have a resoundingly positive impact, by creating uniform standards to the collection and reporting of data on students' race, ethnicity, written, and spoken languages. This legislation formalizes a collaborative process to determine what these standards will look like and how they will be implemented, ensuring that organizations like the Coalition of Communities of Color which specializes in community data have a seat at the table.

On behalf of the Coalition of Communities of Color and Oregon Partners for Education Justice, we ask that you advance House Bill 3288 which will support students and educators from every corner of the state. Thank you for your consideration.

Sol Mora (she/her)
Advocacy Director