



## **KairosPDX**

Written Testimony in Support of HB 5014  
and Oregon's Education Budget for the 2023-25 Biennium  
to the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education  
by Marsha Williams, CEO, KairosPDX  
March 23, 2023

Dear Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain, and members of Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 5014. My name is Marsha Williams and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of KairosPDX, a Portland-based nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating the prolific racial achievement and opportunity gaps for Black children and their families. We operate an Early Learning Academy, a K-5 Learning Academy, and an adult Training Academy.

We urge the committee to ensure House Bill 5014 includes full funding to prepare educators to implement Oregon's ethnic studies standards statewide; improve and standardize how schools collect student race and ethnicity demographic data; and provide sustainable support for community-based summer learning and after-school programs for youth and families in Oregon.

Oregon's state budget is a blueprint for our children's future. The Oregon Legislature has the responsibility and opportunity to set clear expectations and improve accountability around how every dollar is invested to ensure all children in every community have access to the equitable learning opportunities and support they need to thrive. To uphold Oregon's commitment to equity and build a stronger public education system for Oregon, we urge the Committee to invest in the following community-endorsed budget priorities:

- \$7 million to prepare educators to implement Oregon's new Ethnic Studies Standards by 2026. \$1.4 million should be allocated to the Oregon Department of Education to develop culturally responsive professional learning content in partnership with impacted communities, and the remainder should be invested in the Educator Advancement Council to ensure educators across our state have access to these professional learning opportunities. [SB 1050]
- Funding for ODE to launch an inclusive process to standardize and improve how every school district in Oregon collects and reports student race and ethnicity demographic data by 2026. [HB 3288]
- \$30 million to support culturally responsive, community-based summer learning and after-school programs that boost youth engagement, accelerate learning, and nurture the health and well-being of students and their families. [SB 531]

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We urge this committee to invest in these critical priorities and pass their corresponding policy bills, all of which are essential to advancing a more racially just and community-centered education system for Oregon children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marsha". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marsha Williams, CEO  
KairosPDX