

Dear Chair Dembrow,

RE: SB 1050

My name is Kate McPherson and I want to voice my support of SB1050 because I think it is essential that funds are available to provide teachers with resources, training and support so they can effectively implement Oregon's thoughtful Ethnic Studies Standards. Only with this Professional Development will **ALL** student feel seen, welcomed and empowered as they learn about Oregon histories and understand how all our peoples have and can effectively work together to protect and advance our individual rights while also promoting our common good.

As a retired classroom educator, I recall all too many times when I was expected to teach subjects with little or no support or resources and with little time to problem solve and refine my practice. I hope this bill will provide the funding to provide essential training and localized support across the state.

The point I also want to make is that Professional Development needs to be provided for cultural community groups as well. Many organizations - the Japanese American Museum of Oregon, Oregon Black Pioneers, Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, Van Port Mosaic, The Portland Chinatown Museum - to name a few, have invaluable resources and people who share their rich and authentic Oregon stories. Thanks to the pandemic, many of these resources have been digitized so they can be accessed by teachers across the state. These community organizations can breathe life into the standards by sharing their authentic local stories. We must enable educators and community organizations to work together to create resources that align with Oregon's new Social Studies Standards and to explore ways that the authentic voices of the community can become an integral part of ethnic studies.

Professional Development could help cultural community groups enrich their resources in ways that compliment classroom instruction and make them available using ODE's Open Source web site. In addition, having people from these organizations come into the classroom as co-educators will provide the support teachers need, it will diversify the teaching team, and increase student engagement and achievement.

Thank you for your foresight in understanding that thoughtful and ongoing PD is essential for Oregon's Ethnic Studies to realize its potential. And Professional Development that enables cultural community groups to work in partnership with classroom teachers will help them work together to help **all** students thrive as learners and as citizens.

Please vote 'yes' on SB 1050 and make sure the state's education budget has sufficient funds to support classroom and community-based educators.

Gratefully,
Kate McPherson

Article link: article related to past unsuccessful efforts to secure funding in state budget
<https://www.betteroregon.org/news-story/how-oregon-educators-can-fulfill-the-promise-of-ethnic-studies>