



To: Senate Committee on Education
RE: Support of SB 1050

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 1050 to help prepare educators in implementing Oregon's Ethnic Studies Standards statewide.

My name is Sol Mora and I am the Advocacy Director at the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC). We are an alliance of culturally specific community-based organizations dedicated to cross-cultural collective action for racial justice. We are also part of Oregon Partners for Education Justice (OPEJ), a network of community-based organizations, service-providers, and education advocates.

In 2017, CCC joined with our member organization APANO and other advocates to advance the nationally groundbreaking passage of House Bill 2845 requiring Ethnic Studies curriculum in grades K–12. Passed with bipartisan support, we must now take the next step to support our teachers to implement these standards. Successful implementation is critical because every student benefits from seeing themselves and their community represented in curriculum and learning about their classmates' diverse backgrounds and histories. When applied rigorously, this curriculum enriches all students' educational experience as they learn about and live in our diversifying state. Professional development for teachers is essential to achieve this rigor.

Senate Bill 1050 calls for the professional learning that Oregon educators need and deserve, and we hope legislators will allocate \$7 million to prepare educators across the state to implement Oregon's new Ethnic Studies Standards by 2026. We believe that the state has a responsibility to ensure educators have access to quality and robust training to feel well-versed, confident, and empowered in their ability to teach students about the rich histories and contributions of traditionally underrepresented ethnic and social groups. This is a powerful opportunity to improve the overall school climate, and now we must keep our promise to make investments that support our teachers.

On behalf of CCC and OPEJ, we ask that you advance Senate Bill 1050 to ensure our teachers can receive the direct support they need to effectively implement Ethnic Studies curriculum and help create a more inclusive and accessible classroom environment for all students.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sol Mora (she/her)
Advocacy Director