



March 30, 2023

Chair Michael Dembrow
Vice-Chair Suzanne Weber
Members of the Senate Education Committee

RE: [SB 1050 - Professional Development for Ethnic Studies](#)

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Cayle Tern. I am the Immigrant Program Manager with Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO). APANO envisions a just world where Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and communities who share our aspirations and struggles have the power, resources, and voice to determine our own futures. APANO is proud to support SB1050. This legislation is an essential step toward advancing a more racially just and community-centered education system for Oregon's children.

Ethnic studies will help students feel more welcomed, appreciated, and engaged with learning in our classrooms. Oregon has the responsibility to train and support our educators as they implement Ethnic Studies standards in K-12 schools. SB1050 will provide funds for professional development opportunities for educators statewide so Oregon educators can fulfill the promise of boosting student engagement and addressing academic disparities through creating a culturally affirming and accessible learning environment that benefits all students.

The Legislature directed schools to implement the Ethnic Studies standards no later than 2026—a timeline designed to give our state, school districts, and educators adequate time to prepare. While Oregon's Ethnic Studies standards have to be implemented by 2026, SB1050 will provide educators with the training and tools that will have an immediate positive impact on students. We have the obligation to provide an education for every child in the United States. In order for us to accomplish that, we must provide educators with tools to set them up for success.

“Please vote YES on SB 1050 to prepare K-12 educators to successfully implement Oregon’s Ethnic Studies standards and Holocaust and genocide studies standards by 2026”

Sincerely,

Cayle Tern, MSW
Immigrant Program Manager
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon