

Submitter: Leah Maurer
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure: HB3431

Chair Bynum and the Honorable Members of the Committee,
I am a community member and mother of 3 in the Parkrose neighborhood in East Portland where I have lived since 2009. My community has a very diverse population and my children attend the most diverse high school in the state of Oregon, where 20+ different languages are spoken among students, and the majority of the student population is BIPOC. I have been a part of this community both through the school district and neighborhood involvement, and have seen the need for addressing the wealth gap and creating economic stability and agency for communities who've had wealth stripped and/or been underinvested in for decades, which is why I am writing to support HB 3431 to secure additional funding for the Economic Equity Investment Program (EEIP).

The EEIP seeks to address Oregon's wealth gap and create economic stability and agency for communities at the bottom of the wealth gap who've had wealth stripped and/or been underinvested in for decades - especially Black, Indigenous and Latinx communities. The wealth of Oregon's Black, Native, and Latinx communities is not growing at pace with other racial and ethnic groups. And for Black and Latinx families, census data shows median wealth could hit zero by 2053.

Because of these reasons and in the hope for a sustainable future here in Oregon, I urge you to support HB 3431. Please do not let this session to go by without investment into communities of color.

Thank you,
Leah Maurer