

HB 4082 Testimony

Hello members of the committee,

My name is Itzel Chavez Gomez and I serve as the College and Career Coordinator for Adelante Mujeres, a Washington County based non-profit whose mission is to empower Latina women to lead.

I wholeheartedly support HB 4082, the Summer Learning Grant. This crucial initiative fosters hands-on, culturally relevant learning environments, nurturing students' social and emotional skills. The program creates a comfortable space for continued summer learning, benefiting working families and mitigating the academic loss often experienced during this break. Our Chicas Summer Program exemplifies the positive impact, providing students with STEAM experiences in a culturally specific setting, fostering curiosity and leadership potential.

Last summer, our Chicas Summer Program brought invaluable experiences to students. They engaged with Banfield veterinarians, explored Public Health careers with community health workers, delved into automation and production through Daimler Trucking, embraced outdoor learning with Adventures Without Limits, and gained insights into salmon habitat preservation from the US Forestry Department. These diverse opportunities broaden horizons, shaping well-rounded individuals ready to contribute to Oregon's future. Supporting HB 4082 ensures these enriching experiences continue, building a foundation for lifelong learning and success. Let's champion affordable and equitable year-round learning for a brighter future for all Oregonians.