



**Re:** Support for SB 1532, Immigrant and Refugee Student Success Plan

February 7, 2024

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of SB 1532** to create an Immigrant and Refugee Student Success Plan within Oregon's public education system. My name is Jenny Lee, and I am the Deputy Director at the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC), an alliance of culturally specific community-based organizations. Our mission includes addressing the socioeconomic disparities experienced by individuals, families, and communities of color; and to engage in collective action for social change to obtain self-determination, wellness, justice, and prosperity.

The public education system can be stressful and complex for students and families to navigate, and this is only heightened when you add the layer of immigrant and refugee students that have immigrated or resettled in a new country or state. Immigrant and refugee students can face feeling isolated and disconnected within classrooms and curriculum that were not designed with them in mind, which in turn, can negatively impact their social, emotional, and mental wellness, as well as their ability to learn. Immigrant and refugee students can share unique experiences such as developing English language skills for the first time in a formal educational setting, navigating Oregon's specific curriculum standards and measurements of learning success, and adjusting to new cultural norms and expectations to build connections with other students.

We know that systems and institutions were not originally designed to meet the needs of communities of color—but they will be stronger when we reshape them to incorporate culturally specific strategies. Just as we have passed legislation for the creation of plans designed to support the achievement of Black, Native American, Latine, and Pacific Islander students, we must continue to develop effective educational strategies that work for students from every background and dedicate the resources needed. The Immigrant and Refugee Student Success Plan, modeled after Oregon's existing Student Success Act, will provide a pathway to determine success for immigrant and refugee students and will provide the tools necessary to achieve this.

On behalf of the Coalition of Communities of Color, I urge you to support SB 1532 to create an Immigrant and Refugee Student Success Plan that will ensure Oregon's immigrant and refugee students are able to attain success and wellbeing within our public education system.

Thank you,

Jenny Lee  
Deputy Director  
Coalition of Communities of Color