



February 12, 2025

Rep. Courtney Neron, Chair  
House Committee on Education  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for your commitment to strengthening Oregon's education system. I am writing today in strong support of House Bill 3200, which seeks to expand scholarship funding for aspiring educators and further diversify Oregon's teacher workforce—both culturally and linguistically.

The need for a more representative teacher workforce in Oregon is clear. **While 42% of Oregon's students—more than 227,000—are from communities of color, the number of teachers from these communities remains disproportionately low, with only 4,400 educators of color statewide.** This gap has direct implications for student success. Research consistently shows that a diverse teaching workforce benefits all students, particularly students of color. Representation in the classroom is linked to **higher academic achievement, increased engagement, a stronger sense of belonging, and lower dropout rates.**

By increasing scholarship funding for future educators, HB 3200 takes a meaningful step toward addressing this imbalance. **Financial barriers should not prevent talented, passionate individuals from pursuing careers in education—especially when their presence in the classroom has a proven positive impact on student outcomes.** This investment will not only help aspiring teachers but will also shape a more inclusive, equitable, and effective education system for Oregon's students.

I urge the Committee to support HB 3200 and invest in a teaching workforce that reflects the diversity of our students. Thank you for your time and leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Pope  
Executive Director, Stand for Children Oregon