

March 18, 2025

Chair Courtney Neron
Vice-Chair Emily McIntire
Vice-Chair April Dobson
Members of the House Education Committee

RE: HB 2007 – Relating to summer learning; declaring an emergency

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chair McIntire, Vice-Chair Dobson, and members of the House Education Committee,

For the record, my name is Sonia Bautista. I am a Family Support Facilitator, with the Family Engagement team at Adelante Mujeres. Adelante Mujeres serves Latina youth in the Forest Grove, Hillsboro, and Beaverton school districts.

On behalf of the children and families we serve, I am here today to urge you not to support HB 2007.

HB 2007, as it is written, is insufficient to provide holistic support to our youth in Oregon. Effective quality learning programs blend both academics AND enrichment, whereas HB 2007 only considers support for summer learning that focuses on literacy and is not reflective of what our youth in the K-12 system need. Concentrating only on summer learning aligned to literacy does not recognize the importance of holistic and developmentally appropriate approaches that support our youth in reaching their academic goals. Nor does it recognize enrichment learning meant to enhance youth social and emotional development and life-long aspirations.

Our students learn in schools, but also in communities through summer AND afterschool programs such as our Chicas Youth Development program. Extended learning through afterschool programs is essential for students to show high academic outcomes throughout the school year. Our students who participate in culturally responsive afterschool programs feel a strong sense of belonging and develop healthy self-esteem. As a mother who has a daughter in the Chicas program, I can vouch for these positive changes. My daughter is more confident in speaking Spanish. Is eager to help and volunteer in school activities. She now volunteers with the kindergarteners. She used to be shy and reclusive before Chicas. Chicas and other afterschool programs help children grow.

I further urge this committee to build on the work of last year's HB 4082. We need our representatives to follow HB 4082 and the workgroups suggestions to ensure that our youth in Oregon receive the summer and Afterschool programming they deserve to be successful in school. We at Adelante Mujeres submitted many letters of support for HB 4082 directly from the parents of our program. Today we ask you to fulfill the promise and intent of the progress we made last year for more holistic support to our youth in Oregon through not only summer learning but also elevating the importance of Afterschool programs for students' success.

In community,

Sonia Bautista