

Good morning Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Fragala and Harbic, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development.

My name is Craig Woods, and I am a Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher with MESD, currently serving students at Donald E. Long and Helensview School.

As an educator who works directly with youth from diverse backgrounds, I have seen the impact that representation in leadership can have on student engagement and success. At times, I have experienced the barriers that limit advancement for educators of color, including financial challenges and mentorship and guidance.

I am here today to express my strong support for **HB 3006**, which would increase funding for scholarships available to diverse school administrator candidates and teachers.

As someone deeply committed to student success and equity, I know how powerful it is for students to see themselves reflected in the adults who lead and shape their learning environments.

This legislation would:

- Remove financial barriers that prevent diverse educators from advancing into leadership roles
- Create equitable pathways to school leadership that reflect the demographics of Oregon's students
- Complement other important efforts like HB 3200, HB 2588, and HB 2900 aimed at creating a more inclusive and supportive education system

I respectfully urge your support of **HB 3006**. Let's work together to build a future where Oregon's educational leadership truly mirrors the strength and diversity of its student population.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Craig Woods