



March 27, 2025

Dear Chair Hudson, Vice Chairs Fragala and Harbick, and members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Nate Waas Shull and I work as Senior Administrator for Career Pathways & Partnerships at Multnomah Education Service District where I manage our diverse educators pathway program. **I am here to express my strong support for House Bill 3006.**

Our program provides guidance and advocacy for future diverse educators as they seek to access the Oregon Teacher Scholars Program and the Oregon Administrator Scholars Program. **I can share from years of experience that this is truly a game-changing investment by the state of Oregon** when it comes to making tangible progress toward the state's legislatively established educator diversity goals.

On behalf of the dozens of educators in our program who have successfully earned this scholarship, I want to sincerely say 'Thank You'.

In Multnomah County, more than half of our students are students of color, while only 17% of our teachers are people of color. We know from research that having access to diverse educators helps students feel connected to school and contributes to improved academic success - this holds true for both students of color and all for students.

This grant program is creating hope, access, and reliable support for aspiring educators who have been marginalized and excluded from educator preparation programs for a wide array of reasons - among them the prohibitive cost of earning a college degree in our state.

On the flip side of that, I have seen individuals thrown off the path to teaching if for any reason they are unable to access OTSP. We can't afford that. This is a program that's working - in fact it is a fabulous success story. Thank you for your support of this bill to help **continue our state's momentum toward a strong and diverse education workforce** for all our students.

Sincerely,

Nate Waas Shull