



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office
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Oregon Education Investment Board Invited testimony on the Equity Lens, 4/9/13

Governor Kitzhaber and members of the Board:

The Chairs of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions are submitting testimony in support the *Equity Lens* document prepared for your consideration by the OEIB Equity Subcommittee. We represent the:

- The Commission on Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs
- The Commission on Black Affairs
- The Commission on Hispanic Affairs
- The Commission for Women

Thank you for inviting us before you today to testify briefly about the importance of the *Equity Lens* which draws our attention to race, ethnicity, and consideration of equity as our most challenging frontier and one with the greatest promise of a bright future for all in Oregon.

Addressing disparities in educational attainment for communities of color and women is a strategic priority of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions. This includes the overrepresentation of students of color and English Language Learners in school discipline and school drop out rates, and underrepresentation of these students proficient in reading by grade 3, HS graduation, and completion of college. We believe as you do, that these bright young people are the future of Oregon and that robbing them of their potential robs Oregon of the attainment, innovation, engagement, and acumen we need to succeed.

The *Equity Lens* offers a framework and a set of powerful considerations to guide investments in Oregon education and evaluate the approaches we use to educate. Each of the Advocacy Commissions has reviewed it and has unique viewpoints on the efficacy of this document which we will share today, but we are agreed that the *Equity Lens*' focus on race and ethnicity is imperative for Oregon to achieve its education goals. We congratulate you and the Subcommittee on this document and look forward to working with you as adopt it and move forward.

Stephen Ying, Chair, OCAPIA

Isaac Dixon, Chair, OCBA

Andrea Cano, Chair, OCHA

Stephanie Vardavas, Chair, OCFW

OR Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Stephen Ying, Chair
Mari Watanabe, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Sen. Jackie Dingfelder
Rep. Gene Whisnant

OR Commission on Black Affairs

Isaac E. Dixon, Chair
James Morris, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Sen. Rod Monroe
Rep. Lew Frederick

OR Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Andrea Cano, Chair
Gilbert P. Carrasco, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Sen. Chip Shields
Rep. Chris Harker

OR Commission for Women

Stephanie Vardavas, Chair
Jeanne Burch, Vice Chair
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