



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
April 26, 2017

For More Information, Contact:
Scott Moore: 503-986-1904

House Votes to Create Cultural Competency Standards

SALEM – Oregon’s public universities and community colleges moved one step closer today to creating cultural competency standards for their institutions, employees and students.

The aim of [House Bill 2864](#), which passed off the floor with a vote of 45-15, is to create campuses and learning experiences that are more inclusive and more reflective of all communities in Oregon. The bill requires each community college and public university in Oregon to establish a cultural competency oversight committee and requires a process for recommending and overseeing implementation of cultural competency standards for schools and their employees.

Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon (D-Woodburn) was the co-chief sponsor of the bill with Rep. Chris Gorsek (D-Troutdale).

“As a lifelong advocate for increasing access to education, I am passionate about making sure that students are able to engage in their education in a meaningful way,” Rep. Alonso Leon said. “I have heard from many students in our public universities and community colleges who have had experiences that make them feel other-ized, dismissed, unwelcome, and at times even unsafe in their schools.”

“I am hopeful that this bill will help our students feel safe, welcomed, and included in our schools,” Rep. Alonso Leon added.

While many colleges and universities throughout the state are already engaged in this important work, the bill provides a universal framework and direction for the creation of cultural competency standards.

“This important legislation will help move our colleges and universities forward in the area of equity and inclusion,” Rep. Gorsek said. “I was proud to work with Rep. Alonso Leon and the many sponsors of this bill to ensure that every Oregon student feels welcomed in their classrooms.”

The bill now heads to the Senate.

###