



PRESS RELEASE

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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Oregon House Passes Bill to Improve Equity in Early Childhood Education

House Bill 2166 creates the Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Prevention Program to address disparities in how BIPOC students are disciplined, and seeks to diversify education workforce

SALEM, OR—Today the Oregon House passed [House Bill 2166](#) which would create the Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Prevention Program.

The program prioritizes connecting students and parents with social workers and mental health resources, rather than disciplinary actions that disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) youth due to structural racism and a lack of culturally-appropriate and specific care.

“BIPOC parents know all too well the realities of sending our children to school--of having to navigate public spaces. BIPOC students disproportionately are forced to endure the harshest of disciplines, with limited regard for our wellbeing and humanity,” said [Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon](#) (D-Woodburn). “HB 2166 is an opportunity for us to bring the focus back to the child and what the child needs. Shifting our priorities to children’s mental health and wellbeing is crucial to addressing the root of the problem.”

HB 2166 provides non-traditional pathways for educator certification, creating additional opportunities for Oregonians of culturally, linguistically, and socioeconomically diverse backgrounds.

The State Board of Education will provide oversight of public schools that are working to diversify their educator workforce to promote educators who come from and look like the communities they work with.

HB 2166, which passed 37-18, now moves to the Senate for consideration.

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