

**ANNA SCHARF**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 23



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

February 16, 2022

Chief Clerk Sekerak  
Oregon State Capitol

RE: Vote explanation for HB 4031

Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I wish to submit the following explanation for my vote on HB 4031.

HB 4031 – Establishing the goal at the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) that percentage of diverse employees, employed by ODE, reflect the percentage of diverse students in public school.

This bill establishes a goal and nothing more. ODE already has the capability of establishing agency goals without taking up valuable time during the short 35-day Legislative session. In addition, this bill has no connection to educating students.

It has been ruled time and time again to be unconstitutional to give preference based on race. This bill does just that. Every state agency should strive to hire the best and the brightest employees, but for the agency responsible for educating the children of this state, this should be the only criteria.

Regards,

Anna