



## **OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS**

Salem, Oregon  
Oregon State Legislature

### **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Senate Democrats Vote to Improve Experience and Outcomes for Diverse Student Populations**

SALEM – Today, the Oregon Senate passed House Bill 2001, a bill to create greater diversity among Oregon’s K-12 teachers.

In 2019, the Legislature passed the Student Success Act, which committed funds to implement professional development and training programs and increase cultural and linguistic diversity among educators. Many of these current legislators are some of districts’ newest hired, so are more likely to be cut when schools are faced with difficult lay off decisions, which under current law is based on seniority.

“Our kids, our schools, our communities and our collective future benefits when students are taught and influenced by a diverse community of teachers. We know Black Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and linguistically diverse students, benefit when they are around teachers, mentors and leaders who look like them or who speak their same language,” said Senator Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego), former chair of the Lake Oswego School Board, who carried House Bill 2001 on the Senate floor.

House Bill 2001 ensures that cultural or linguistic expertise are considered among layoff determinations, so the value of these educators is considered when schools face difficult staffing decisions.

“This seemingly small clarification will have lasting impacts. It can be challenging to connect with those who do not understand your culture or where you come from. And it is difficult to be what you cannot see,” added Senator Wagner. “When our diverse population of students is taught by a diverse populations of teachers we will inspire these kids to understand that they are capable, they too can teach or reach a variety of goals, and the generations that follow will, in turn, be inspired by them.”

House Bill 2001 passed with bipartisan support. It now goes to Governor Kate Brown for final approval.

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