

House Education

Witness Signup List

03/25/2021 1:30 PM

Testimony - HB21-1010 Diverse K-12 Educat

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First Name Last Name Position Representing

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Benjamin Waters For Stand for Children

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r Workforce Report

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Text of Testimony

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Madame Chairwoman McLachlan, Vice-Chair Young, and members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Benjamin Waters and I'm submitting testimony today representing Stand for Children Colorado, a non-profit advocacy organization focused on ensuring all students receive a high quality, relevant education, especially those whose boundless potential is overlooked and under-tapped because of their skin color, zip code, first language, or disability.

According to the Colorado Department of Education, our classrooms have more than 43% of Black, Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) students; sadly our teacher workforce is more than 87% white, and over 70% of all Colorado school districts don't have a single black teacher in their entire district.

Why does that matter? Simply put, having kids who have teachers that are BIPOC are more empathetic, well-rounded, confident, and open-minded. Numerous studies have shown that having a diverse teacher workforce has led to reduced absences and truancy, plus improved reading, and math test scores, as well as higher graduation rates. It's also worth mentioning the particular impact that having BIPOC teachers has on black students in particular; black students who have at least one BIPOC teacher are at least 13% more likely to go to college and are a full 30% less likely to drop out of high school.

This bill is a critical first step towards a much more inclusive and diverse teacher workforce in Colorado. With a report out coming from the work group in September 2022; it is a measured, thoughtful bill that will benefit all Colorado students.

Please support HB21-1010

Sincerely,
Benjamin Waters ,
Representing Stand for Children Colorado

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