

Perreault Matt

From: maria garcia <revolucioncoffeehouse@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 12:03 PM
To: HED Exhibits
Subject: Community advocate Kim Sordyl

Dear House Education Committee,

Please consider this my written testimony against HB 4013.

My name is Maria Garcia. I am a business owner in downtown Portland, former employee of the Mexican consulate in Portland, Co chair of the New Portlanders Policy Commission, active member of the Sanctuary City task force by Portland City and current candidate for Multnomah County Commissioner of District 2.

I speak as an Immigrant Mexican woman with strong connections with diverse immigrant communities in Portland and as a friend to Kim Sordyl.

It is my understanding, the purpose of HB 4013 is to remove Secretary of State Dennis Richardson's non-voting appointee to the State Board of Education, Mrs. Kim Sordyl.

As an advocate for the Latino community, I can assure you that the values, strength and courage that Kim brings to our community are very needed and useful.

Speaking as the Mexican immigrant woman I am, I can tell you, as you may know, our Latino community is facing many challenges, our immigration status and language barrier being the main ones. Our community does not trust any Institution when it comes to reporting any type of abuse' Within the Mexican and Central American diaspora there are indigenous communities whose first language is neither Spanish nor English. Many of our kids have been hurt and insulted in many ways by teachers and other children which demonstrates low interest in and respect for our children.

Kim's public voice has encouraged many Latino parents, mainly women, to be more engaged and active in the school life of their kids. They are more outspoken when abuse takes place with their kids and they are reporting these issues. And this has happened because Kim is articulating in a perfect way, the frustration, anger and disappointment in the Educational system and schools that our kids attend. We need her voice to continue detecting the gaps in the Educational system and holding people accountable. She is the voice of many of us'

Our community members work two or three jobs to make ends meet, so are not very familiar with the issues at school. This are changing, but slowly owing to these and other obstacles.. Our parents are more interested now in what is happening with their kids at school and are taking a more active role, thanks in large part to the influence of Mrs. Sordyl.

I am very disappointed that this HB 4013 has been created to remove Mrs. Sordyl from such an important role in our society. Ms. Sordyl is a mother with a family. Why should she donate her labor when we are fighting for all who work to be paid appropriately for their work? I highly suggest, she gets paid a salary and provided with an assistant so our communities can start building trust in the educational system that is failing us.

I know, Kim's integrity and courage will not stop because we will still support her no matter the outcome of this bill.

I kindly ask you, to examine those citizens who are trying to remove Kim Sordyl from such an important and necessary role.. It is evident to me, that in their list of values and priorities, the sake of our kids is not number one.

If more testimonies are needed from the community members Kim has help, I will be more than happy to collect them and send them.

Sincerely,

Maria Garcia
760 5743881