

April 3, 2013

Re: Mascot – House Bill 3397

Senator Kruse's initial bill (SB 215) would have prohibited the State board of Education from adopting rules or imposing sanctions related to the use of Mascots by the public. I totally agree with this first bill because it would uphold our First Amendment rights, which seems to be disappearing rapidly with each passing day.

The Oregon Department of Education, which is a group of five unelected, appointed individuals have determined that they can withhold State School funding if any of the 16 schools with mascots don't remove the Indian name by 2017.

Two of the schools affected are run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs: The Chemawa Indian school (Braves) in Salem and the Siletz Valley School (Warriors).

Roseburg High school dropped the "Warrior" logo and other Native imagery and went with the "Feather" logo. They are Indians in name only and the local Native American community is satisfied with the treatment from the high school, according to Susan Ferris, spokesperson for the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. They worked towards a solution that requires education, evolution and time.

The amended version of Senator Kruse's bill is acceptable to me because it allows our community to work with the Grand Ronde. We can keep some semblance of local control and not lose a part of our history, culture and beliefs to state mandates under the pressure of political correctness.

If we want to continue to live in a free society, and enjoy the benefits of its freedom, we must avoid political correctness and the intellectual weakness it represents.

"PC" is hindering our entire society's freedom of speech and challenging our First Amendment rights. How can a movement which challenges our basic freedoms be seen as positive? This is nothing more than "Liberal McCarthyism".

Sincerely,



Linda Eskridge
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