

## Vote NO on SB 215

From the Oregon Indian Education Association comes this account of how a Native American student in Oregon feels “**alienated**” and “**objectified**” when faced with race-based Indian mascots. Dakota Daniels says her “**civil rights will continue to be violated**” if a local Tribe is allowed to approve a race-based Indian Mascot:

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### **Native American Students & Families Call Foul: Race-Based Sports Names a Violation of Their Educational Civil Rights**

A few legislators in the Oregon House and Senate are trying to move forward a proposed bill that attempts to alter Oregon’s law preventing discriminatory race-based athletic nicknames in K-12 schools. **Senator Jeff Kruse** (R-Roseburg), a sponsor of one of those bills said in hearing, he is “a lifelong proud Roseburg ‘Indian’” and that he doesn’t think this is a “real issue”. For Native American Students and Parents, this issue couldn’t be more real.

“I feel alienated in my own school hallways”, says **Dakota Daniels**. **Dakota** is a Junior at Sprague High School in Salem and is on the varsity cheerleading team. Every time her school plays the Roseburg ‘Indians’ the environment that race-based athletic nicknames create in her school, “...makes me feel objectified”. **Dakota** is not alone. According to the Oregon Department of Education there were over fifty scientific studies that confirm her experience which lead State Board of Education to ban their use in K-12 Schools last spring.

The Oregon Department of Education reports over 9,500 American Indian/Alaska Native students attend Oregon Schools, and officials at the Salem-Kaizer Indian Education Program, where **Dakota** lives, enroll students from over 90 different Tribes from all across the nation.

**Dakota** is from the Blackfeet Nation in Montana. Under the language any of the proposed bills she would still repeatedly be expected to confront the ‘Indians’, ‘Warriors’, any image or representation a local Tribe ‘approves’ she says, “My civil rights will continue to be violated. If a Tribe local to one of the schools approves a mascot, I still have to deal with it.”

- Submitted by Susan Hansen, Molalla, Oregon, as evidence that Native American students’ civil rights would not be served by letting a local Tribe be the sole decider about Indian mascots.