

Chair Doherty, and Vice Chairs Hernandez and Wilson;

I would first like to acknowledge the nine sovereign nations of Oregon, and all other tribal nations who traditionally used, what is now known as, Oregon - for letting us work and do business on their land.

I would also like to acknowledge the tribal people gathered today to share their words and experiences in support of Senate Bill 13. Although I am unable to be with you in person I would like to share written testimony.

My name is: Korinna Wolfe

My family is from the Tuolumne Rancheria of Mewuk Indians in Northern California.

I am writing today as an Educational Administrator who serves in executive leadership in the role of Senior Director of the Multiple Pathways to Graduation Department at Portland Public Schools.

And also as:

The daughter of a Mewuk woman who was educated both in her local community as well as sent to Catholic boarding school in California in the 1940's and 50's. I am also the mother of two Mewuk children who, while our tribal home is in another state, are being educated in Portland Public Schools.

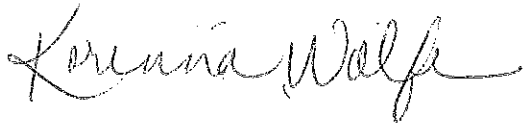
At a time when our budgets are strained we need to make smart investments that improve the educational outcomes of our future civic leaders. Senate Bill 13 is a smart investment because:

1. It holds the ability to allow accurate knowledge from local tribal nations to be cultivated and shared in a manner which respects both tribal sovereignty and tribal leadership in Oregon and throughout the United States.
2. In the absence of current and historical multi-dimensional, intergenerational tribal knowledge and ways of knowing, inaccurate information is currently being shared as factual to innocent and unknowing students of all races in grades Pre-K through 12.
3. SB 13 allows for a fundamental shift by promoting information on Native tribes and Native culture to be shared statewide.
4. Thousands of Oregon educators strive to teach well yet lack the content materials and indigenous framework within which to do so. SB 13 will allow accurate information to be available to educators of all school districts, rural and urban, including Portland Public Schools, where in Oregon's largest school district, three-tenths of one percent of teachers and six-tenths of one percent of Administrators identified as Native American according to PPS Human Resources data in November 2016.
5. As a result of having accurate, current and comprehensive tribal information available to teacher and administrator colleagues in every school state wide, the burden of educating other educators on American Indian culture and sovereignty will be, at least partial,

- relieved from current Native teachers and Native administrators. Native American professional longevity within k-12 education will, thus, be supported by Senate Bill 13.
6. Additionally, as the Senior Leader over the PPS districtwide Reconnection Services program which works to reconnect students who have experienced disconnection from school, Native students drop out of school at higher rates than any other race year after year. When I ask students to describe what factors led to their disconnection from school, Native students often articulate not seeing themselves and their families / tribes in the curriculum as a loud and clear message that they and their families are not wanted or welcomed in the classroom.
 7. Lastly, as a Mom, my own children experience invisibility in each and every grade through the absence of tribal knowledge. As a state, Native children deserve to be respected and both Native and non-Native students deserve accurate and relevant information, including the talents and strengths of tribal people from time immemorial to the present day. Moreover, SB 13 provides an opportunity to correct the ills of the Indian boarding school era with accurate, tribally-lead, integrated Native education for all students Pre-K – 12.

Tribal history is OUR history - all of us who now call this place home need comprehensive tribal education. Please join us in supporting Senate Bill 13 when it comes to a floor vote.

With Respect,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Korinna Wolfe". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "With Respect," text.

Korinna Wolfe