

Good afternoon, Chairman Doherty, and members of the House Committee on Education.

My name is Larae Ellenwood I'm 17 years old and I live in Portland, Oregon.

I am a citizen of the Nez Perce Nation, whose traditional homelands include our state of Oregon. I am also a descendent of the Blackfeet Nation in Montana and the Seneca Nation in New York.

I am here today as a high school student. I will be completing my Junior year at Cleveland High School later this week.

Thank you for hearing my testimony today. I am here to speak in support of Senate Bill 13.

I want to share with each of you my personal experience of attending schools in Montana, a state that had the first tribal nation curriculum mandate. I moved from Montana during my sophomore year, after attending schools there since the 1st grade.

Between 1st grade and my Sophomore year in high school, I had the privilege of attending schools that taught students about tribal sovereignty, history, culture, and science.

I have been told that this bill may not be approved by our state legislature because it includes the need for funding. I want to tell you that I believe Senate Bill 13 is a small investment with a large impact.

1. Reason #1 (keep this short)

(2-3 sentence to describe your reason)

Not only is there importance to native students, but to non native students as well.

2. Reason #2 (keep this short)

(2-3 sentence to describe your reason)

EXAMPLE biology class/hellegate → US history

3. The cost of this bill is VERY small

The funding for this bill is only .01% of Oregon's general fund revenue. It is a tiny investment that will have a big impact for all students in our state.

Thank you again for allowing me to share my testimony with you today. Please

remember my experience when you are making your decision about Senate Bill 13.

Tribal history is all Oregonians history – This mandate is good for all Oregon students.
I urge each of you to support Senate Bill 13.