

**TAWNA SANCHEZ**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 43  
NORTH AND NORTHEAST PORTLAND



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Re: Senate Bill 13

Greetings Senator Roblan, and Members of the Committee,

Today offers a very meaningful opportunity to move forward on the inclusion of Native American curriculum in our schools, and actualize an important piece of the American Indian Alaska Native (AIAN) State Plan.

Senate Bill 13 will bring tribes to the table to offer perspective from local natives, about not only historical, but just as importantly, contemporary issues related to culture, government, and our long-standing shared history in this place we call Oregon.

The history of Oregon deserves to be told from the perspective of all of its residents – in particular from its first residents. Sometimes that history is hard to hear, and even harder to tell. What I know as a parent is that when a Native child is exposed to his own history in school, his understanding of the role of his ancestors in the history of this country is apparent. This is something other Non-Native children experience on a regular basis. The first time my son heard about Native American history in school, he talked about it for days, asked questions in school, and actually talked in class.

We expect that the development of this curriculum will help improve educational outcomes for students across the state. I strongly urge your support of Senate Bill 13.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tawna Sanchez".

Representative Tawna Sanchez

Oregon House District 43

North and Northeast Portland

