



Native American Youth and Family Center

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House Committee on Education

Re: HB 2440, Relating to statewide education plans

Chair Doherty, Vice Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chair Helt, and Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is Paul Lumley, citizen of the Yakama Nation, and I have the honor of serving as the Executive Director at the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) located in Portland, Oregon.

On behalf of NAYA, I am pleased to submit this letter in support of HB 2440, which would create a Latino Student Success Plan. NAYA's mission is to enhance the diverse strengths of our youth and families in partnership with the community through cultural identity and education.

The NAYA Family Center is in strong support of HB 2440 as an important strategy to achieve educational opportunity for Oregon's Latino children and youth. In light of the educational disparities faced by many children of color, we believe it is critical that we take culturally-specific approaches to addressing the unique needs of our students and families so we can create an Oregon where every child succeeds.

Our experience as a partner in the American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Student Success Plan has shown us the importance of an educational plan designed to meet the needs of students of color. The AI/AN Student Success Plan was created to provide a roadmap to prepare students for success and address the ongoing disparities in academic outcomes impacting Native American and Alaska Native students. A wide range of advisory committee members from around the state came together to develop educational objectives, strategies, and measurable outcomes. NAYA advised in the development of this plan and believes in the importance of this ongoing work. More work and greater investments are needed for full implementation, but the creation of the plan itself and its ongoing development are critical steps toward increased opportunities in education for Native American students.

We know that culturally-specific approaches to education will increase the success of Oregon's students of color and, like Native American students, Latino students stand to greatly benefit from a plan that addresses the inequities facing students and identifies the tools to address them. On behalf of the Native American Youth and Family Center, we respectfully urge you to support this bill.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B. Paul Lumley".

B. Paul Lumley
Executive Director