



**OREGON STATE SENATE**

**Statement from Senator Bill Hansell in Support of SB 312**

**Chair Doherty, Members of the Committee, this bill originated from conversations last summer with Dr. Jason Younker, who is the Tribal Liaison for the University of Oregon.**

**As the cost of pursuing a college degree continues to increase, it is important that we allow an avenue for Oregon high school graduates to seek an affordable higher education.**

**This legislation would provide in-state tuition to Native American and Alaska Native students who graduate from an Oregon high school. For example, students from the historic Chemawa Indian School, here in Salem, come from many states in the West and are not permanent Oregon residents. But they came to Oregon for high**



**school and will graduate with an Oregon high school degree. My district is also home to Nixyaawii Community School, which serves Native American students on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.**

**I believe Oregon will benefit by allowing these students the opportunity to pursue their college education in our state. SB 312 passed unanimously out of the Senate on April 16th. It has an emergency clause to allow June 2019 high school graduates to get in-state tuition starting this fall.**

**If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 503-986-1729. Thank you for your time and I urge your support.**