



To: House Committee on Education
From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist
Re: House Bill 2052
Date: February 2, 2021

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Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs Neron and Weber, and members of the committee:

On behalf of OSBA membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2052.

School districts proudly host events and celebrations both for students in school and more broadly for members of the local community. These events include graduation ceremonies, awards celebrations, and other public events. HB 2052 would, with narrow exceptions, preclude school districts from banning students wearing of Native American items of cultural significance at these events.

Thankfully, there does not seem to be any widespread instance of these kind of bans. However, it is important that all students are free to dress and behave in a way that honors the student's person and culture. This is especially true in the case of the Native American cultures, which have been subject to some of the most deliberate and systemic cultural destruction in United States history.

HB 2052 would make it clear that students may choose to recognize Native America culture and traditions by wearing Native American items of cultural significance at school events. Within Oregon there are nine Native American tribes recognized by the federal government, and countless members of these and other Native American tribes. Native American tribes, tribal members, and tribal cultures deserve respect and recognition in school districts, especially during school district events and celebrations.