

My name is Tana Atchley Culbertson. I am a citizen of the Klamath Tribes and am Modoc, Paiute, and Karuk. I had the privilege of graduating from Chiloquin Jr Sr High School, where my tribal and non-tribal community honored me and my fellow classmates with an honor song, sung by one of our tribal drum groups. A small, beaded eagle feather was placed in the cap of all tribal graduates. I never realized how unique and special those experiences were until I left home, where I learned that this experience was not guaranteed. Graduation is such a significant milestone in a young person's life. Being able to show up as your whole self and celebrate in ways that are meaningful and honor your culture is a significant act that validates the cultural identity development of our youth. I am in full support of HB2052 and hope that future graduates will be given the opportunity to be honored in a culturally meaningful way to them and their families.