



LatinoNetwork

**Testimony of Anthony Castaneda, Policy Manager,
Regarding HB 2052: Tribal Regalia
Senate Committee on Education
April 21, 2021**

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and members of the committee,

Latino Network proudly joins Oregon's Tribes and the Oregon Partners for Education Justice (OPEJ) in voicing our support for HB 2052. Students should feel empowered to wear their traditional tribal regalia and other items of cultural significance at graduation ceremonies and school events. These life milestones should be filled with a strong sense of pride and celebration.

Latino Network is a culturally specific nonprofit empowering children, youth, and families in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties. Every year our organization provides transformative services to thousands of Latinos in the areas of education and mentorship, leadership development, community healing, and family stability. We support families before, during, and after school through various programs.

Native traditions and culture pre-date Oregon's statehood in 1859. For thousands of years, more than 60 Indigenous Tribes cultivated and stewarded the land and water. Native communities spoke at least 18 languages with traditions and cultures unique to the region's features. As Oregon reckons with historical and today's injustices facing Native communities, HB 2052 is an opportunity for Oregon to demonstrate without hesitation that Native identities and traditions are honored, and that their communities and culture not only endure but are determined to thrive.

HB 2052 is a step forward in embracing the rich histories, traditions, cultures, contributions, and perspectives of Oregon's Tribes. This is essential for all students from our youngest children to our young adults.

We urge a YES vote on HB 2052. Thank you for your time and leadership.