



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



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Colt Gill

Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

MOVING EQUITY FORWARD

HB 2052: Tribal Regalia & Objects of Cultural Significance
House Education Committee
February 2, 2021

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chairs Neron and Weber, and members of the committee, I am Colt Gill, Director of the Oregon Department of Education. I am providing testimony in support of House Bill 2052.

This bill replaces and reinforces a letter that I and previous leaders in my role have written annually to school district superintendents and high school principals for the last several years. At the request of education leaders from the nine federally recognized tribes and other partners we have requested that schools allow American Indian/Alaska Native Students to wear **traditional tribal regalia** or objects of cultural significance at school events and especially graduation.

And, nearly each year some students have been denied this basic request to express and honor their culture. We are reaching out to you. We need your help through HB 2052 to recognize tribal sovereignty by codifying the inherent right of American Indian/Alaska Native Students to wear **traditional tribal regalia** at events of significance in their lives.

Your passage of this bill would allow me to let school leaders know they are required to preserve the rights of our Native American youth.

I thank you for your support and would like to introduce Ramona Halcomb, Indian Education Specialist with our Office of Indian Education to provide additional information for your consideration.

Thank you,

Colt Gill