



February 1, 2021

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs Neron and Weber, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of OR, we respectfully request your support for House Bill 2052.

It is important to recognize that many tribal nations have viewed the wearing of traditional regalia and items of cultural significance, such as eagle feathers, beadwork and similar items, as sacred to cultural traditions. When school districts allow Native students to wear a feather or beadwork, they give honor to the student, the family, tribal leadership, and the entire community. This recognition encourages Native students to complete their high school education, and recognize the diversity in our shared communities.

In addition, federal law recognizes eagle feathers as objects of religious and cultural significance, and, as such, students have the right to wear them as an adornment at their graduation ceremonies.<sup>1</sup>

In recent years, six states have recognized the right of Native American students to wear tribal regalia, including California<sup>2</sup> Kansas<sup>3</sup>, Montana<sup>4</sup>, North Dakota<sup>5</sup>, South Dakota<sup>6</sup>, and, most recently, in 2020, Washington<sup>7</sup>. It is our sincere hope that the State of Oregon will become the seventh.

Thank you for joining us in support of House Bill 2052.

Sincerely,

*Trish Garner, J.D., M.S.W.*  
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<sup>1</sup> American Indian Religious Freedom Act, August 11, 1978

<sup>2</sup> California AB 1428 added section 35183.1 to the Education Code, January 1, 2019

<sup>3</sup> Kansas, HB 2498, 2018

<sup>4</sup> Montana SB 319, 2017

<sup>5</sup> North Dakota HB 1335

<sup>6</sup> South Dakota, SDCL 13-1-66

<sup>7</sup> Washington HB 2551, 2020