



COW CREEK BAND OF UMPQUA TRIBE OF INDIANS  
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March 21, 2023

To: House Committee on Higher Education  
From: Ally Van Norman  
Re: Testimony in Support of House Bill 3565

For the record, my name is Ally Van Norman. I am a member of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians and urge your support for House Bill 3565.

I grew up in Roseburg, Oregon, where our tribal government and homelands are.

For a brief history, our tribe signed a treaty with the United States government in 1853, ceding our lands in exchange for services such as education, health care, and housing. However, shortly after, as a culture and people, our rights were ignored, and the promises of the treaty were as well.

It was during this time that many of my ancestors and their families were forced to relocate, families separated, and our native culture dismantled through western colonization.

This trauma has carried on through generations and is part of our history that we cannot ignore.

In 1954, along with all Western tribes, Cow Creek was formally terminated through an act of Congress. This action is another point of trauma in our history but also demonstrates our resilience's power and strength.

After five attempts and 30 years of perseverance, the U.S. government restored our formal recognition as a sovereign tribal nation in 1982.

I share this history because from 1853 until 1982, my tribal ancestors suffered tremendous trauma that has carried over through the generations.

Fortunately, my grandparents persevered through the generational trauma and reconnected to their tribal roots. And as a child, I was exposed to many of our tribal traditions that connected me to that part of my heritage.

As I went through high school and was exploring my future education and career goals post-graduation, the tribal education department supported me in that endeavor and has continued in my higher educational and professional journey.

I spent the first several years out of high school taking classes at Umpqua Community College part-time while working for the tribal government in the social services department.

I experienced firsthand the needs of our tribal members - young and old- in various social services, from housing, health care, child welfare, mental health, and more.

Working within the social services field, I also saw the need for more social service professionals, especially professionals with tribal heritage, to provide more services with a culturally specific approach to better meet the needs of our tribal members.

It is because of the initial \$19 million the legislature allocated last year that I was able to go to school full time this year to pursue an Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer degree at UCC - and with the support of the program, if you pass HB 3565, I will be able to attend OSU in the fall and complete a degree in Human Services.

With my degree, my goal is to give back to my people and the state by contributing to my tribal community, which also helps the broader community.

I am just one story. There are many more like me who will benefit from this program.

Thank you for your time.