



BETSY CLOSE
OREGON STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 8

Thank you, Senator Hass and Members of the Senate Education and Work Force Committee for hearing SB 501 today.

I'm Senator Betsy Close. I am bringing this bill to you on behalf of Linn County Commissioner John Lindsey. John represents Lebanon, Oregon in Linn County as I do also. Lebanon High School experienced problems in 2012 when their high school mascot "The Warriors" came under fire from the State Board of Education. In response, the school board held hearings to ascertain if members of the community were offended by the name "Warriors." Finding general agreement, including tribal agreement, they made the decision to keep their name. The State Board of Education then moved toward the withholding of educational funding from this school district. I will yield at this point to Commissioner Lindsey and, Mr. Chair, at this point, we are not offering an amendment.

Thank you.