



# Native American Youth and Family Center

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March 4, 2019

Chair Doherty, Vice Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chair Helt, Members of the House Committee on Education

RE: House Bill 2897 – Support

Chair Doherty, Vice Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chair Helt, and Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is William Miller and I serve as the Health Equity Program Coordinator at the Native American Youth and Family Center in Portland, Oregon. I am submitting testimony today in support of HB 2897 which establishes the Early Childhood Equity Fund to support culturally specific early learning, early childhood, and parent support programs across the state.

Our community has had access to pivotal resources, such as the *Parents as Teachers* program which provides our parents the opportunity to build confidence as parents, in turn, allowing them to utilize information that is culturally relevant and responsive. Several of the parents in our community have had the opportunity to place their children in culturally specific early learning programs, which enables their children to feel normalized within their culture and allows them to strengthen their resiliency factors and builds confidence for when their children start public school. Our youth aren't only academically and socially equipped, they also know that they have an entire community standing behind them to support them by participating in culturally specific early learning programs. The wraparound services in early learning programs strengthens the entire families – it supports the youth and supports the families by providing resources and connections to enrich the lives of all those involved.

On behalf of the Native American Youth and Family Center, we urge you to continue the growth, opportunity, and future success of all our communities by supporting the passage of HB 2897.

Thank you,

William Miller  
Health Equity Program Coordinator  
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