



Native American Youth and Family Center

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May 21, 2019

To: Chair Nathanson, Vice Chair Findley, Vice Chair Marsh, Members of the House Committee on Revenue

RE: House Bill 2387 – Support

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chair Findley, Vice Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is William Miller, I represent the Native American Youth and Family Center and I'm submitting testimony on behalf of HB 2387. NAYA's wraparound programs directly serve over 2,000 individual Native American youth, adults, and Elders every year and positively impacts more than 10,000 lives throughout Portland's growing urban Native community.

At NAYA, we support a rich, diverse, and thriving young adult population eager to attend college. The biggest barrier that we hear and talk about is that of financial instability, opportunity, and opportunities for their family to assist in their educational journey. Many of our students already believe they can't afford a college education, therefore much of our college access work centers around financial access and education. The Oregon Education Savings Credit would create a state-sponsored savings program which grows tax-free and would be able to be used for qualified expenses such as tuition, books and room and board, at any accredited, post-secondary institution. The Savings Plan would be poised to reach diverse communities through the state, and the Savings Plan would, if adopted, replace the current state tax deduction. The proposed legislation calls for the Oregon Education Savings Credit to be a tiered, refundable tax credit:

1. Maintain revenue neutrality;
2. Provide sufficient tax incentives to maintain accounts in Oregon, thereby preserving the Plan's assets under management and keeping fees low
3. Encourage more low and moderate-income Oregonians to open accounts and save

This savings plan would be widely felt among the populations which we serve, which includes students in the David Douglas, Reynolds, Portland Public School Districts, and the hopeful



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graduates of our onsite alternative high school, the NAYA Early College Academy (ECA) seeking to attend college at low or not cost.

The Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) wholeheartedly believes in this Savings Plan and we urge the passage of HB 2387, for continued educational investments, collective capacity building, and for providing foresight for the educational success of future generations.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Miller".

William Miller
Health Equity Program Coordinator
Native American Youth and Family Center

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