



**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF
LOWER UMPQUA AND SIUSLAW INDIANS**

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

1245 Fulton Avenue • Coos Bay, OR 97420 •

(541) 888-9577 • 1-888-280-0726

General Office Fax: (541) 888-2853

House Committee on Early Childhood
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

2/1/2021

RE: Support for HB 2055

Dear Chair Power, Vice-Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Zika, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Josh Davies, Tribal Councilman and Director of Education for the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, and on behalf of our Tribal Council who fully support this bill, I am submitting testimony in support of HB 2055. Not only because the creation of a Tribal Early Learning Hub was requested by Oregon Tribes during Government to Government consultation meetings with the Education Cluster, but because this is has much needed for many years. The Tribes fully this program and partnership. As stated in other testimonies, public policies directly impacting Indigenous communities have been designed without their input. When public policy is developed by and for the communities it is designed to impact, it can have a lasting and transformative effect.

With HB 2055, as a Tribe that is currently looking for resources for Early Learning, creating the Tribal Early Learning Hub will allow more access and resources with an ability to include those whom may have concerns, questions, ideas, or suggestions for future concepts. Tribal communities have endured many problems when trying to locate the correct person to contact or who to receive answers from, if they are to be received in a timely manner at all. Having a Hub for the nine Tribes of Oregon to contact when needed will allow for many positive interactions that will benefit both the ELD and Tribes.

Native Americans were educated on a holistic approach prior to the boarding school era. We have continued to see our students struggle with the current education system for many years. Our youth deserve to learn in the best way possible for them. Like most native youth, our Tribal members learn best through project based learning and excel when learning through nature. Our parents worry more about survival then education, or do not hold the skills or confidence in positive parenting strategies.

As CTCLUSI moves forward as an engaged partner with the Tribal Early Learning Hub, it will be more effective to have the ELD programs that assist with our families and students in the development of their skills. The Native American Hub will ultimately create a positive growth mindset during this unprecedented time in our nation's history within supporting of the nine Tribes. What better way is there to do this than the creation of a Tribal Early Learning Hub?

I, CTCLUSI Tribal Councilman Josh Davies urge the Committee to support HB 2055.

Thank you for your consideration,

Josh Davies
CTCLUSI Tribal Councilman
CTCLUSI Director of Education
541-888-1314
541-294-4105