



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Early Learning Division



Representative Karin Power, Chair

Representative Lisa Reynolds, Vice-Chair

Representative Jack Zika, Vice-Chair

February 2, 2022

RE: House Bill 4033

Dear Chair Power and Vice Chairs Reynolds and Zika,

Today you will hear about HB 4033 – a bill that is important to the Early Learning Division. Recognizing Tribal Sovereignty and ensuring access to resources that support the provision of early care and education services reaching tribal children, families and communities of this state is an aim we take earnestly.

HB 4033 is a result of the continued growth in holding space for the consultative government-to-government relationship that the Early Learning Division seeks to uphold with the nine federally recognized tribes within Oregon's borders and modifies membership of the Tribal Advisory Committee to better reflect this approach.

For many years, tribal nations within Oregon's borders have experienced varying levels of engagement and access to resources as we have increased investments in the early care and education sector. The creation of the tribal hub will increase these and other resources by prioritizing tribal sovereignty and working in direct partnership with the tribal nations.

The Division heard concerns upon our convening of the newly established Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) and would like to honor and respect what our tribal partners have shared. I would like to emphasize the Tribes' and Division's commitment to parent engagement in policy making. The appointed tribal representatives had concerns over the role of a "parent group" also known as the four identified American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) family representatives in legislation, as this body does not represent tribal governments in the Government-to-Government relationship.

Again, tribal governments and the state have a deep commitment to parent engagement, however raising these constituencies to the level of tribal representatives does not honor the internal processes of both tribes and the State. The ELD met with tribal representatives in the Government-to-Government Education Cluster to discuss and came to agreement on a path forward that respects tribal sovereignty and the government-to-government relationship that the state has established with the Nine Federally Recognized Tribes within our state borders.

I submit this letter to express the Early Learning Division's support for HB 4033.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "V. Atanacio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "V".

Valeria Atanacio

Tribal Affairs Manager

Early Learning Division