



Oregon Early Learning Council

700 Summer Street NE, Suite 350

Salem, OR 97301

February 15, 2022

Senate Committee on Education

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

SUE MILLER
*Chair, Early Learning
Council*

ANGELA BLACKWELL

KATY BROOKS

PETER BUCKLEY

ANNE KUBISCH

KALI THORNE LADD

GEORGE MENDOZA

DR. MARGARET MILLER

ALYSSA CHATTERJEE
*Early Learning
System Director*

Dear Chair Dembrow and Committee members,

The Early Learning Council offers its support for [HB 4033](#), which modifies membership of the Tribal Advisory Committee at the request of Tribal Nation partners. We believe this modification is an important step forward in creating a Government-to-Government relationship between the Early Learning Division and the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon.

In early meetings of the Tribal Advisory Committee, appointed tribal representatives pointed out that the role of the parent advisors within the group did not properly represent tribal governments in a Government-to-Government relationship. Currently, parent representatives on the Tribal Advisory Committee are not appointed by tribal governments and, therefore, do not respect internal processes of individual tribes. Each tribal government has its own unique methods for including parent voice in decision making, and the current requirements for the Tribal Advisory Committee do not take tribes' processes into consideration.

This change, while seemingly small, is crucial to respecting the Government-to-Government relationship that we are trying to build. As a member of the Tribal Advisory Committee, I support this change to recognize and support individual tribes to collect parent and community feedback in the ways that work for their communities. The Early Learning Council is also committed to supporting this relationship, and we offer our support of HB 4033.

Sincerely,

Angie Blackwell
Early Learning Council

