



March 8, 2023

Chair Neron, Vice Chair Hudson, Vice Chair Wright, and Members of the House Committee on Education

RE: House Bill 3288 – Support

Chair Neron, Vice Chair Hudson, Vice Chair Wright, and Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is William Miller (Blackfeet/ Cherokee) and I have the honor of serving as the Executive Director of the NAYA Action Fund located in Portland. Founded by the community, for the community, the NAYA Action Fund is a 501(c)(4) social welfare organization with a mission to expand political advocacy and build electoral power in partnership with the Native community in Oregon and Washington. Our vision of systemic change is youth centered, family driven, and elder guided. I write in support of House Bill 3288, providing standards for the collection of certain data.

Oregon's 197 school districts are currently required by state and federal law to collect and report race and ethnicity data regarding student demographic. However, this is not required to be done in a way that is uniformed or standardized. HB 3288 would adopt uniformed standards for data collection in our education system. The bill would use REAL-D data best practices in consultation with impacted communities and the State Board of Education to adopt uniform standards for the collection of data on race, ethnicity, and preferred written and spoken languages. Our current data collection practices often miss critical data points, leaving communities left out, marginalized, and underfunded. Adopting uniformed standards for data collection in our educational system is a vital step to making the often-invisible communities, visible again. The bill has support from a broad coalition of community leaders and organizations, allowing us to move this forward with a strong foundation.

Working to shift policy is one component of the work we do at NAYA Action Fund; we also work to build public education and raise awareness of vital issues impacting the American Indian/ Alaska Native community. This session, we hope you join us in providing opportunities for better data collection throughout our education system – as Oregon can become an innovator in this arena.

On behalf of the NAYA Action Fund, we ask for your support of HB 3288.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "W. Miller", is placed above the printed name.

William Miller
Executive Director