



OREGON STATE SENATE

March 11, 2025

Greetings, Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Committee members, I'm Senator Todd Nash representing Senate District 29, which includes Wallowa, Union, Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, Sherman, Wheeler, and most of Wasco and parts of Jefferson, Clackamas and Marion Counties. I am also proud to represent the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. As well as Celilo Village outside of The Dalles. Most of the people living at Celilo are enrolled as members of either the Yakama Nation or the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, some are enrolled Umatilla, and some Nez Perce.

I am the Chief Sponsor of Senate Bill 772.

SB 772 Establishes Indian Health Scholarship Program to provide free tuition and fees for qualifying Indian health profession students in exchange for student commitment to work at tribal service site after graduation.

This bill has passed the senate policy committees in previous session only to die in Ways and Means. Those bills were SB 640, 293, 469 and received bi partisan support and sponsorship and no opposition.

In Prior sessions we passed a bill that was known as a Rural Health Care Scholarship program which provided rural students a scholarship for their health care training if they came back to practice to rural Oregon for the same number of years as it took to earn their degrees. One of the reasons we hear on why students are not able to return to rural Oregon to practice is because of the debt load they get while receiving their medical education. This program has been widely used and is successful to those that use it.

What SB 772 does is the same thing but for native American students. Most, if not all of the treaty tribes in Oregon have medical facilities and in the case of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, a very impressive medical facility, the Yellow Hawk Clinic. This bill will help those native American students be able to get their training and move back and work.

I implore the committee to support SB 772.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Todd Nash", with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Todd Nash
Oregon State Senator
District 29