



Representative Hoa Nguyen  
Oregon House District 48

HB 3218 - Tribal Attendance Promising Practices (TAPP) Program  
Study

4/30 Senate Committee on Education

Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Sarah Arbuckle, Chief of Staff for State Representative Hoa Nguyen, who represents House District 48, including outer Southeast Portland and North Clackamas County. Representative Nguyen is unable to attend today's hearing, but I'm honored to deliver her testimony in support of House Bill 3218. I will read the Representative's testimony into the record now.

I am Representative Hoa Nguyen, serving House District 48. As an educator and someone deeply committed to improving student outcomes, I am proud to support House Bill 3218, which calls for a study on expanding the Tribal Attendance Promising Practices (TAPP) grant program. This bill came out of the Chronic Absenteeism workgroup in the interim, but was left out of the Omnibus, HB 3199, so that we could participate in tribal consultation throughout the legislative process.

One of the most pressing challenges facing our schools is chronic absenteeism. During the 2021–2022 school year, 36% of students across Oregon were chronically absent. Among American Indian and Alaska Native students, that number was significantly higher—more than 50%, according to the Oregon Department of Education. The National average is just 26%. These numbers reflect not just missed days, but missed opportunities for learning, development, and connection.

TAPP was created to help address this problem in a targeted and effective way. It supports partnerships between school districts and Oregon's federally recognized tribes to increase student attendance through proactive, community-based strategies. These strategies include the use of school-based attendance advocates, direct family outreach, and better coordination between schools and Tribal partners.

Results from participating TAPP sites show meaningful progress. Schools have reported better communication with families, increased student participation, and higher overall attendance. In many cases, schools that were struggling to keep students engaged are now seeing stronger daily participation and more consistent academic progress.

House Bill 3218 directs the Department of Education and the Legislative Commission on Indian Services to study how TAPP can be expanded to benefit more students and schools across the state. This includes assessing funding needs, identifying potential new sites, and ensuring continued collaboration with Oregon's Tribal Nations.

This bill is a smart, evidence-informed approach to a growing statewide challenge. By building on what's working, we can take meaningful steps to improve attendance and student success in more communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.