



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

February 10, 2021

Timothy G. Sekerak  
Chief Clerk of the House  
State Capitol Building, H271  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on HB 4033

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

On February 9, 2022 I was a No vote on HB 4033, there was historical context behind my vote.

HB 4033 as passed off the floor today disconnects parents from the Tribal Advisory Committee that gives input to the Early Learning Council. Parental participation was at the heart of Early Learning Hubs and the purpose of the Council dating back to 2013 when HB 2013 established the Early Learning Hubs. Enumerated in that bill was that parents would have a direct seat at the table. The bill further states that parental choice in services is an important purpose of parents having a seat at the table.

This bill removed language that would have had "Four parents of children enrolled in early childhood care and early childhood education programs, as identified by representatives of the nine federally recognized Indian tribes of this state". By removing the four parent committee members from this Tribal Advisory Committee to the Early Learning Council, there is no guarantee that the parent voice will be heard. This bill also makes the member from the Commission on Indian Services a nonvoting member, thus dropping the membership of the advisory committee from 25 to 21 members and 20 voting members.

The Native American population has had historically low graduation rates compared to other ethnic groups (67% in 2020 and declining from 2019), which is why they are called out specifically in having their own Tribal Advisory Committee to address the unique concerns of being a historically disadvantaged population in Oregon. Removing parents from this process doesn't further the goals of trying to leverage early learning to impact long term educational outcomes at high school and beyond for Native American children.

An additional concern is that this bill will, by statute, remove the voice of parents who are able to provide input and advice on the development of the programs their children will participate in. I strongly believe parents should be involved in the decision-making process of policy conversations that will have an impact on their child.

Lastly, I would like to note for the record this bill doesn't include a quorum requirement for the committee.

This NO vote does not in any way mean to disenfranchise this Tribal Advisory Committee as autonomy and self-determination between First Nation governments and state programs. This is an important and a valid concern. During the pandemic parents have had to step up as never before with their children. Parental input and participation are a vital aspect at all levels of education. Respecting parents is a serious matter and honoring their input in a formal way by giving them a recognized voice on matters that impact their children is an important reason to register a NO vote on the bill.

Sincerely,

Raquel Moore-Green  
State Representative, District 19