



**Chair, Kyle Busse**

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August 15, 2013

The Human Rights Commission of the City of Portland urges Governor John Kitzhaber to follow through on a veto of Senate Bill 215—legislation that would supersede a 2012 state Board of Education ban on the use of tribal mascots in public schools. This issue is consistent with a Human Rights Commission statement issued on April 6, 2012, in support of OAR 581-021-0047, which prohibits public schools from using Native American mascots.

In the 2012 statement, the Human Rights Commission stated, “The names and images of race-based mascots that are intended to represent Native Americans or other cultures often perpetuate negative stereotypes of those races as violent, unintelligent, or otherwise "wild and savage," further perpetuating the systemic racism within our institutions, such as schools.”

August 19, 2013 is drawing near. We ask the community to immediately call on Governor Kitzhaber to veto Senate Bill 215. The veto will help heal the hurt of generations of our Native American brothers and sisters and move Oregon a little closer to acknowledging the trauma we have caused them.

**Human Rights Commission Executive Committee:**

Kyle Busse, Chair

Deyalo Bennette, Vice Chair

Allan Lazo

Donita Fry