

**Confederated Tribes *of the*
Umatilla Indian Reservation**

Board of Trustees



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House Judiciary Committee
April 2, 2019

Chair Williamson and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) we write to support HB 2657, Comprehensive Violence Prevention.

Indian Country children experiences domestic and sexual violence at higher rates than most non-Indian communities. Since most Indian children attend public schools off the reservation, increasing the level of awareness throughout the state education system will be beneficial for Indians and non-Indians.

The CTUIR has an active domestic and sexual violence program for Indians living on the Umatilla Reservation. The program, implemented by the Family Violence Services (FVS) program, receives funding through federal grants. The FVS's limited funding means that it can only operate a targeted curriculum to Indian children on the reservation and the Nixyaawii Community School.

The -2 amendments before you today were requested by CTUIR to clarify that funding may go to federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon. Additional funding provided by this legislation would allow the CTUIR FVS program to expand the curriculum outside of the reservation boundary and into the Pendleton and Athena school districts, where many CTUIR children attend school. In order to reach the communities most impacted by violence, this bill is an important step in partnering with those communities on culturally-specific programming. In our experience, violence prevention outreach and instruction are most effective when instructors come from the community they are serving. We look forward to continuing to work with the Sexual Assault Task Force to ensure tribal communities gain access to greatly needed violence prevention programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.