

Chair Jennifer Williamson  
House Committee on Judiciary  
900 Court Street NE, H-295  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Williamson and members of the committee:

I am writing to express my support of HB 2625. The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women bill has the potential to impact and help so many lives. This epidemic is not new within the Native community, nor is it only regionally present.

I am a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Cherokee, NC and have resided in Portland for the last two years as a student at Portland State University. The city of Portland has done great things for MMIW and it is my hope that the state of Oregon does the same.

At Portland State, the United Indigenous Students of Higher Education (UISHE) and Healing Feathers student group have hosted numerous events recognizing the need for awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

With passing this bill, Oregon will start the conversation on improving tribal government relations on and off Indian reservations throughout the state of Oregon. Additionally, with the state of Oregon passing this legislation it will also gain national publicity for doing such.

It has been an honor to work for Representative Sanchez this legislative session as an intern, and also, gain a better insight to the harsh realities and statistics for our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. Please support and pass HB 2625.

Sincerely,

Callie Phillips  
Intern  
Representative Tawna Sanchez  
O: (503) 986-1443  
C: (828) 735-9737