



To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
From: Lisa Leno, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Tribal Council Member
Date: April 29, 2019
Subject: Please Support House Bill 2625A

Chairman Prozanski and distinguished members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Lisa Leno, I am an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and have the honor of serving as one of our Tribal Council members. I am here before you this morning to testify in support of House Bill 2625A and to ask each of you to support its passage.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde supports the effort to bring awareness to disparities in properly reporting incidences of missing and murdered Native American and Alaskan Native women. There is a lack of communication between state, local and tribal law enforcement making investigation of these cases difficult. According to the National Institute of Justice 84% of Native American women have experienced violence in their lifetime. In 2016, there were 5,712 known incidents of missing or murdered Native women but only 116 cases were logged with the Department of Justice.

House Bill 2625A directs the Oregon Department of State Police to study how to increase resources, enhance systems for reporting, and how to identify, investigate and respond to cases of violence against Native American women in Oregon, including cases on reservation land.

For more than 15 years, I served as the manager for our prevention program and worked hand in hand with our Social Services Department. I saw firsthand the devastating impact domestic violence and sexual assault has on our people. Our Tribe has firsthand experience with missing and murdered indigenous women and its affects are devastating.

Oregon is truly unique when it comes to the relationship between the state and the tribes. Together, we have done amazing things, from Governor Atiyeh and the creation of the Commission on Indian Services, to Governor Kitzhaber's Executive Order 96-30, and then passage of SB 770, which put into statute the government-to-government relationship. We should all be proud as Oregonians of the work done to solidify a strong bond between the state and the tribes. This is yet another example of the collaboration that continues to make Oregon a leader in State tribal relations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, I urge you to support House Bill 2625A.