

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 across the state. This epidemic is not new within Indigenous communities, nor is it only regionally present. We need this support more than ever, and the power is in your hands.

I am a member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and a descendent of Navajo, Yakima, and Wasco People. Of these four Tribes each has their own stories that are known throughout the Reservations correlated with Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

I have resided in Portland for the last 7 years and been a student at Portland State University for the last 2 years. The city of Portland has done astounding 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.

Since living in Portland and being close to the heart of MMIWUSA I have been able to gain a better insight to the harsh realities and statistics for our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. Please support and pass HB 2625.

Sincerely,

Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie  
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Portland State University  
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