

February 10, 2020

The Honorable Tawna Sanchez, Chair  
The Honorable Janelle Bynum, Vice-Chair  
The Honorable Sherrie Sprenger, Vice-Chair  
House Judiciary Committee Members

Re: HB 4148 - Support

Dear Chair Sanchez and Members,

On behalf of the Oregon Justice Resource Center, I respectfully request your support of HB 4148.

The Oregon Justice Resource Center (OJRC) is a public interest law firm that represents justice-involved individual and advocates for criminal justice reform in Oregon. We operate several distinct projects that provide legal assistance to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated Oregonians who would otherwise not have access to such legal help.

I have the privilege of directing the OJRC's Women's Justice Project (WJP) and providing legal assistance to women incarcerated in Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCF). The goals of the WJP are to ensure that the criminal justice system treats women fairly, protects their health and safety, and makes it possible for them to successfully rejoin their communities when they are released. We work to achieve these goals by providing re-entry focused civil legal assistance to women incarcerated in CCCF, engaging directly with family members of incarcerated individuals and concerned community members, and facilitating research and public education efforts to lift up these voices.

Many of the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women, who I have assisted, are Native American and have been involved with the foster care system, either as children or as parents whose children have been removed from their care. I have seen the devastating impact of Native American children being removed and disconnected from their communities and cultures. I have also witnessed the significant stability and strength that women and families gain from connection to their communities and cultures.

We urge you to support HB 4148.

Sincerely,



Julia Yoshimoto  
Project Director and Attorney  
Women's Justice Project