

**TESTIMONY ON HB 4148
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
FEBRUARY 12, 2020**

**PRESENTED BY: VALERIE COLAS, ACCESS TO JUSTICE COUNSEL
TRIBAL COURT STATE COURT FORUM STAFF COUNSEL
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Dear Chair Sanchez, Vice Chair Sprenger, Vice Chair Bynum, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) is committed to preserving and honoring the rights of Native American children, families, and tribes. OJD believes that codifying the Federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) together with best practices into the Oregon Juvenile Code is an important and necessary step to ensuring the safety of Native American children, preserving tribal families and communities, and recognizing the sovereignty of tribes. In addition, HB 4148—the Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act—will help in our efforts to ensure that courts are consistently adhering to the protections and rights afforded under the Act.

We express our gratitude to Representative Sanchez for her leadership and commitment to fostering a collaborative process that centers the lived experiences of Native American children, families, and communities to find a collective solution. OJD also acknowledges the hard work and efforts of the members and staff of the work group to advance this critical bill.

The Oregon Judicial Department remains committed to supporting this bill as it moves through the legislative process.