



OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT  
Office of the State Court Administrator

June 25, 2020  
**(SENT BY EMAIL ONLY)**

Joint Committee on the First Special Session of 2020  
900 Court St. NE, Room 347  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for Oregon's Indian Child Welfare Act

Dear Co-Chairs Courtney and Kotek; Co-Vice Chairs Girod and Drazan; and Members of the Joint Committee on the First Special Session of 2020:

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 towards ensuring the safety of Native American children, preserving tribal families and communities, and recognizing the sovereignty of tribes. House Bill (HB) 4214 (previously HB 4148, 2020 Session)—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 acknowledges the hard work and efforts of the members and staff of the work group to advance this critical bill. We also thank all the supporters of this bill for recognizing the value and importance of this legislation, and for continuing to pursue its passage.

Sincerely,

Nancy J. Cozine  
State Court Administrator

NC:jm/20eNC033jm  
cc: Representative Tawna Sanchez