



**TO: Joint Interim Committee on the First Special Session of 2020**  
**FROM: Mae Lee Browning, Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association**  
**DATE: June 25, 2020**  
**RE: Support for House Bill 4214 - Oregon's Indian Child Welfare Act**

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Dear Co-Chairs Courtney and Kotek, Co-Vice Chairs Drazan and Girod, and Members of the Committee:

**OCDLA supports HB 4214 with the dash 1 amendment.** It was important to pass the 2020 short session version of the bill (HB 4148A, which OCDLA supported) and it is now more critical than ever to pass HB 4214 given the devastating effect COVID-19 has had on indigenous peoples.

OCDLA has been the leading voice for public defense policy in Oregon for over 40 years representing 1,200 providers statewide. Our members work with youth in the juvenile justice system, parents whose children have been removed, children in foster care, and adults in criminal justice system, appeals, civil commitments, and post-conviction relief proceedings. OCDLA advocates for legislation ensuring the rights of the accused, those involved in the juvenile justice system, and the attorneys, investigators and others who do this difficult work.

Codification of Federal ICWA into Oregon's Juvenile Code is necessary to preserve tribal families and communities, recognize tribal sovereignty, support compliance with ICWA in our courts and DHS offices throughout the state, and is a step towards undoing Oregon's history of disproportionately removing Native children from their families.

We thank Representative Sanchez for her leadership and commitment to the workgroup process, as well as the support of the bill's co-chief sponsors and to all of the stakeholders who have worked on this important bill.

**Oregon ICWA is well-suited for passage in this special session which was convened to address the pandemic and racial injustice.** OCDLA urges the passage of HB 4214 with the dash 1 amendment.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mae Lee Browning, J.D.  
Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association