

**TESTIMONY ON SB 183A
FULL FAITH AND CREDIT OF TRIBAL JUDGMENTS, DECREES AND ORDERS
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
MAY 13, 2021**

**PRESENTED BY: HON. VALERI LOVE, JUDGE, LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Noble and Power, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Valeri Love and I am a Circuit Court Judge in Lane County. I am here on behalf of the Oregon Judicial Department to testify in support of SB 183A, a bill brought before you at the request of the Indian Law Section of the Oregon State Bar. I am very grateful to you for scheduling this important bill and thank you for providing us the opportunity to testify in support of the bill.

I have been a judge member of Oregon's Tribal Court State Court Forum (TCSC Forum) since its inception. The TCSC Forum was established in 2016 to further collaborative relationships between state and tribal judicial systems in Oregon. The TCSC Forum includes tribal court judges from Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes and nine state court judges. The TCSC Forum works to identify cross-jurisdictional issues that impact people served by our judicial systems and improve the administration of justice for all our people.

To those ends, the TCSC Forum has worked on initiatives and projects, such as proposing an amendment to the Uniform Trial Court Rules to ease restrictions for individuals seeking to appear in Oregon state courts for child custody proceedings pursuant to the Indian Child Welfare Act. The members of the TCSC Forum have led educational outreach efforts and training to law enforcement about the importance of enforcing tribal protection orders. I have been pleased to see the engagement of judges across justice systems seeking solutions and am grateful for being a part of these developments.

In 2018, members of the TCSC Forum identified the need to go beyond educational outreach and training efforts to address the challenges to the recognition and enforcement of tribal court protection orders. A failure to enforce those orders delayed the administration of justice and put survivors in a precarious position. We also heard that there was a broader need to extend full faith and credit to other types of judgments and orders from Tribal Court justice systems. After identifying those issues, the TCSC Forum has served in an advisory capacity to attorneys who have researched and crafted the solution you see before you.

SB 183A provides full faith and credit to judgments and orders of tribal courts, and ensures that tribal judgments, orders, and decrees are enforceable across our state. This bill was a combined effort of the Indian Law Section of the Oregon State Bar, the TCSC Forum, tribal representatives and counsel, OJD staff, and other stakeholders. We appreciate that the proponents engaged OJD and the TCSC Forum and offered opportunities for input. This bill is a testament to their hard work, and we are pleased to support the bill.

I am happy to answer questions. Thank you for your time.