

Submitter: Michael Collins
On Behalf Of: Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB835

Honorable Sens. Patterson, Hayden, and Committee members,
My name is Michael Collins, I am the Director of Managed Care for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon. I am an appointed delegate by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs' Tribal Council on all matters that pertain to health. This delegation gives me the authority to speak on behalf of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. I do not have any conflicts of interest on this bill.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has been having discussions with the nine tribes of Oregon for many years regarding REALD and the benefits that it has for monitoring and improving health for not only the Tribes, but all Oregonians. Through the discussions that we have had with OHA there were initial concerns in regards to confidentiality and data sharing. We wanted to ensure that any data collected and shared would be protected and did not reduce or jeopardize our sovereignty as a Tribal Nation. These discussions with OHA were purposeful and productive in ensuring the Tribes' sovereignty would not be affected. The bill will also be useful to Tribes in collecting data on affiliation that will be useful to the tribes and our health tracking and demographic needs. Having a tribal representative on the advisory committee is paramount in ensuring that the intent of this bill is followed and the information is collected and stored appropriately. The bill also states that tribes have the option to opt out of participation of REALD collection. After years of discussions with OHA on this topic and having all of our concerns addressed and added into the bill the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs supports Senate Bill 835.