

Submitter: Michael Collins
On Behalf Of: Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB841

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 (CTWS). I do not have any conflicts of interest on this bill.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has had discussion in regards to SB 841 with CTWS recently. The CTWS has always progressed in improving the health and welfare of our community and in protecting their rights and the CTWS' sovereignty. The overall language and intent of SB 841 looks to be encompassing of gathering data to ensure that health outcomes are addressed in a proactive manner so as not to cause any harm to communities at large. Section 2; Subsection (7) states that the authority (OHA) may enter into an agreement with a tribe for the purpose of receiving reports of reportable diseases under subsection (2) of this section and of investigating cases of reportable diseases under subsection (3) of this section... Our concerns would be entwined in the written agreements with the OHA to ensure that our sovereignty is protected and not jeopardized or diminished in any fashion. CTWS will continue to work in good faith and standing with the agency to improve the health and welfare of our community as well as for the benefit of all Oregonians. If there were language in this bill that expressly protects the sovereignty of Tribes we would be more willing to endorse this SB 841; however, at this time we will give a neutral position. If this bill passes, we will work with the OHA on any agreement that we would support that would protect the rights of our people and the sovereignty of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Respectfully Submitted on February 19, 2025