



YELLOWHAWK
TRIBAL HEALTH CENTER
HEALTH COMMISSION

+ Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center
46314 Timine Way
Pendleton, OR 97801

+ P 541.966.9830
+ F 541.240.8753
+ www.yellowhawk.org

February 27, 2025

Senator Deb Patterson
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR., 97301

To the honorable chair of the Senate Committee on Health Care, Senator Deb Patterson,

The Health Commission of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) write to urge you to support Senate Bill 841.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's, Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center (Yellowhawk) is only 1 of 2 Tribal health clinics that currently has the infrastructure to accept reports and investigate our reportable disease cases. We are limited by lack of access, jurisdiction, and data parameters that do not serve Tribal Public Health programs. Our current data is skewed based on testing location, county decision making, and state software. SB 841 is the first step in providing more comprehensive communicable disease data to the Tribes which would allow us to better plan for short-term and long-term Public Health programming and workforce development.

Yellowhawk is a part of the first cohort of the Northwest Tribal Data Hub. This project is the first step for Tribes to be able to access their own data that stems from State programs and reports that otherwise would not be accessible. We need SB 841 passed for this project to expand and allow OHA to enter into data agreements with the Epicenter, allowing Tribes access to vital Public Health data. We strongly seek support for OHA's efforts to safeguard our Tribal data, including how the data is communicated, stored, and made accessible to us. Additionally, we believe that Tribes should have the autonomy to establish their own data-sharing agreements with the state.

Sincerely,

Althea Huesties-Wolf, Chair
CTUIR Health Commission