



YELLOWHAWK
TRIBAL HEALTH CENTER
HEALTH COMMISSION

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March 25, 2025

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
900 Court St. NE,
Salem, OR., 97301

To the honorable chair of the Senate Committee on Health Care, Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson

The Health Commission of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation write to urge you to support Senate Bill 835.

During the pandemic, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center performed key public health functions for its Tribal and non-Tribal communities. But given these heightened key functions, there lacked accessibility to Tribal-specific data to support important decisions relating to COVID-19 response in our communities. Through SB 835, the authorization and collection of Tribal specific data will enhance accessibility and allow Yellowhawk to attribute the correct data to the correct people and Tribes for long term positive public health impacts. Tribes cannot continue to work in a vacuum because Tribal people do not live in a vacuum. The collection of Tribal specific data for the purposes of improving health in our Tribal communities is essential to our mission of optimizing healthy lifestyles. Given support of SB 835, we expect at all times Tribal data will be properly protected and safeguarded from intrusions via the ways the sensitive data is communicated and housed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Althea Huesties-Wolf'.

Althea Huesties-Wolf, Chair
CTUIR Health Commission