

February 11, 2019

Chair Williamson, Co-Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger, and Members of the Committee:

Re: House Bill 2631

Dear Chair Williamson and Members,

I respectfully request your support for HB 2631.

I have the pleasure of serving on the Advisory Committee for the Women's Justice Project (WJP) a program of the Oregon Justice Resource Center (OJRC). WJP is the first and only program in Oregon to exclusively address issues related to women intersecting with the criminal justice system. I came to be on the Advisory Committee for three reasons. First is the relationship that I have with Julia Yoshimoto the Project Director and Attorney for WJP. Julia did a Fellowship with me in collaboration between Lewis and Clark Law School and Red Lodge Transition Services. The work of WJP is an outgrowth of that collaboration.

Secondly, is my academic and professional body of work which addresses the issues of incarceration of women with a focus on Native American women. I am the former Board Chair of Red Lodge Transition Services. In addition, I am an Advisory Board member of the Transforming Justice for Victims and Survivors through Victim Assistance and Restorative Justice. I also serve on the Governor's Committee on Law Enforcement Contacts Policy & Data Review. My academic body of work includes my PhD dissertation which explored the issue of Incarceration and Native American Women. As part of my dissertation research I led an 18 month workshop at Coffee Creek Correctional Institution. The focus of the workshop was to bring healing, address barriers to reentry, and reduce recidivism.

Thirdly, and my most compelling is the personal experience of my family, my tribe, and my people. Incarceration runs deeply through our families and our generations. I am one of 18 children and have 16 brothers. All of my brothers who reached adolescence have served time from juvenile programs to federal prison. The majority of my 50 plus nieces and nephews are involved in the system.

The services offered HB 2631 are vastly needed. I ask for your support for the changing of people's lives, the addressing of barriers to successful re-entry and community well-being,

Sincerely,



Carma Corcoran, PhD  
Chippewa-Cree  
Women's Justice Project  
Advisory Committee Member