

**Testimony of the Oregon State Bar in Support of HB 4148
Before the Senate Judiciary Committee**

February 24, 2020

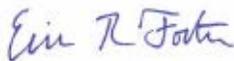
Chair Prozanski and members of the committee:

The Oregon State Bar supports HB 4148, which would create an Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act.

Deciding whether to remove a child from their home is one of the most difficult decisions a court is forced to make. Ensuring that family members are heard and the child's needs are carefully considered is a fundamental access to justice issue. HB 4148 helps to address the unique difficulties regarding the placement of Native American children and the additional requirements imposed by federal law.

HB 4148 is the product of a broad group of stakeholders who came together to address what is a challenging subject. The Oregon State Bar is thankful for the work that went into this bill and looks forward to supporting it as it moves through the legislative process.

Respectfully Submitted,



Eric Foster
Chair, Oregon State Bar Public Affairs Committee