

**TESTIMONY ON SB 183-1  
BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND  
BALLOT MEASURE 110 IMPLEMENTATION  
MARCH 8, 2021**

**PRESENTED BY: HONORABLE MARTHA L. WALTERS, CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE  
OREGON SUPREME COURT, OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

I am Martha Walters, Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court. I am here to testify in support of SB 183 with the -1 amendment, a bill brought before you at the request of the Indian Law Section of the Oregon State Bar. I am pleased to be joined by Chief Judge Lisa Lomas of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Chief Judge William D. Johnson of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Chief Judge Lomas and I co-chair the Tribal Court State Court Forum (TCSC Forum). Chief Judge Johnson is an active member of the Forum and long-time leader on state and tribal court coordination and cooperation.

I am very grateful to you for scheduling this important bill and thank you for providing us the opportunity to testify in support of the bill. The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) is committed to recognizing and honoring tribal sovereignty and working together with tribes to ensure just outcomes in all courts of this state.

The TCSC Forum was established in 2016 to further collaborative relationships between state and tribal judicial systems in Oregon. The TCSC Forum includes tribal court judges from Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes and nine state court judges. The TCSC Forum works to identify cross-jurisdictional issues that impact people served by our judicial systems and improve the administration of justice for all our people.

To those ends, the TCSC Forum has worked on initiatives and projects, such as proposing an amendment to the Uniform Trial Court Rules to ease restrictions for individuals seeking to appear in Oregon state courts for child custody proceedings pursuant to the Indian Child Welfare Act. The members of the TCSC Forum have also led educational outreach and training to law enforcement about the importance of enforcing tribal protection orders.

In 2018, members of the TCSC Forum identified the need to go beyond educational outreach and training efforts to address the failure to recognize and enforce tribal court judgments and orders, including tribal protection orders, because those failures delayed the administration of justice and put survivors in a precarious position. We also heard that there was a broader need to extend full faith and credit to other types of orders from Tribal Court justice systems. After identifying those issues, the TCSC Forum has served in an advisory capacity to attorneys who have researched and crafted the solution you see before you.

SB 183 provides full faith and credit to judgments and orders of tribal courts, and ensures that tribal judgments, orders, and decrees are enforceable across our state. This bill was a combined effort of the Indian Law Section of the Oregon State Bar, the TCSC Forum, tribal representatives and counsel, OJD staff, and other stakeholders. We appreciate that the proponents engaged OJD and the TCSC Forum and offered opportunities for input. This bill is a testament to their hard work and we are pleased to support the bill with the -1 amendment.

I believe that you will hear more from attorneys from the Indian Law Section about the specifics of the bill, but I am happy to answer questions. Thank you for your time.