

January 31, 2020

The Honorable Janelle Bynum, Chair
The Honorable Ron Noble, Vice-Chair
The Honorable Karin Power, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

Re: **Support for HB 2912**

Dear Chair Bynum and Members of the Committee,

I support HB 2912.

I serve 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 have been Advisory Committee since its inception. The need for the program continues to grow as the incarceration of women in this state and across the country as women are incarcerated at a higher rate than men.

The removal of women from their children, families, and communities creates an environment of crisis for all involved while incarceration itself is a barrier to the programs they need to address their life situations and reduce recidivism. The ability to address those needs and those barriers while women are incarcerated greatly helps as they transition back into community.

The Women's Justice Project is unique, innovative and can serve as a model across the country. As a person whose family, tribe, and as a Native citizen, I have first-hand experience of how incarceration runs deeply through our families and our generations and its ancillary effects. The work is needed, the time is now, and I strongly urge you to support HB 2912.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carma Corcoran', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carma Corcoran, PhD
Chippewa-Cree
Director Indian Law – Lewis and Clark Law School