



The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon

Social Services
Phone (503) 879-2034
1-800-242-8196
Fax (503) 879-5127

9615 Grand Ronde Rd
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and members of the committee,

Re: Yes on SB 271-1

My name is Danielle Murrell, I am a member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Program Manager for our Warriors of Hope Program. Thank you for taking up SB 271-1. I strongly support this bill, which is essential for the stability and wellbeing of the victims and survivors we serve.

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde operates The Warriors of Hope program, which is a tribal program that serves victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence, stalking, dating violence and trafficking. The tribe is located in northwest Oregon. The Tribe has a large service area, which includes both rural counties (Polk, Tillamook, and Yamhill counties) and more urban counties (Multnomah, Marion, and Washington) and the cities of Portland and Salem. The Warriors of Hope program provides 24-hour crisis line, assistance with locating safe shelter, safety planning, court advocacy, support groups and community education and outreach.

This housing funding is of momentous importance to our community and the victim/survivors that we serve. American Indian/Alaska Native women experience sexual and domestic violence at a disproportionate rate compared to non-natives, 84.3% of American Indian/Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime. When they have to leave their home in order to flee from violence, it often leaves them homeless and securing housing is essential to the stabilization process of victims/survivors. This puts them at risk for more violence and abuse. Victims/survivors are getting back on their feet after enduring trauma and abuse, trying to protect their children, seeking and maintaining safety are all contingent upon securing stable housing. The request for housing services is the highest demand and need for our victims that come thru our program and the most difficult access. Housing is the foundation for which they can grow from and be successful in their journey to healing.

This housing funding will allow us to continue to serve our families that would otherwise be in the streets or be sleeping at nearly freezing temperatures in cars with their infant children and toddlers. With housing funds, we have been able to assist people that were couch surfing with their children, not knowing day to day where they would be sleeping. We have been able to help survivors safely relocate, help a mother and her child leave the tent camp with the abuser and get them into emergency hotel and into transitional shelter, complete with case management services where they have been able to thrive. We have been able to help many women safely flee, which we would not have been able to do without the ability to provide storage, rental assistance and application fees. This assistance is necessary for survivors to be able to get back on their feet, obtain employment and be able to pay for day care while they are working. These housing situations are based out of a person's basic right to live free from domestic and or sexual violence. This is a public issue and we have an ethical obligation to make this basic right accessible to all.

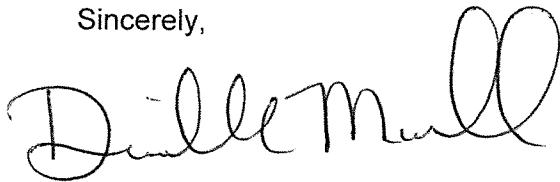
SB 271-1 will continue and increase funding to community-based and culturally specific DVSA programs to assist survivors with housing needs, and fund prevention services to support survivors at risk of becoming unhoused due to DVSA.

With the constraints of pandemic restrictions, programs have had to utilize motel stays as safe shelters more than ever before. Without funding to maintain this type of sheltering, advocates are forced to turn survivors away from emergency shelter. Emergency shelter is a crucial step in ending both the cycle of violence and the potential cycle of being unhoused while also trying to stay safe from an abuser. Funding for both emergency shelter and steps to achieve permanent housing dramatically changes the ability of community-based and culturally specific DVSA programs to help survivors rebuild their lives free of violence.

As the growing housing crisis continues in our state, we are grateful to the lawmakers who are prioritizing the health and safety of victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence with this legislation. We urge you to pass SB 271-1.

Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle Murrell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "D" and "M".

Danielle Murrell

Warriors of Hope, Program Manager