

Submitter: Amber Case-Eastman
On Behalf Of: Sef
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3198

My name is Amber, and I am a survivor. I have survived cancer twice, domestic violence, and a terrifying incident that nearly cost me my life. I stand here today to support Oregon House Bill 3198, not only for myself, but for all the missing and murdered Indigenous women – our sisters whose voices have been silenced. We are not statistics; we are mothers, daughters, sisters, grandmothers. We are sacred. My experience, like so many others, highlights the extreme vulnerability Indigenous women face and underscores the urgent need for change, accountability, and justice. While driving home, I stopped at a rest area. A stranger appeared. He followed me onto the highway, and his behavior quickly escalated from tailgating and flashing lights to aggressive attempts to run me off the road. The terror was overwhelming. This was a targeted attack. He then pulled alongside me, brandishing a gun, threatening to kill me. I genuinely feared for my life.

I escaped. I survived. But the trauma remains.

I reported the incident to the authorities. I told them everything. A stranger tried to murder me. And what happened? Nothing. The investigation stalled, the leads went cold, and my case seemed to be forgotten. This is a familiar pattern – a pattern of inaction, indifference, and injustice that disproportionately affects Indigenous women. We are targeted, we are vulnerable, and too often, we are forgotten.

This is why I urge support for House Bill 3198. We need accountability. We need law enforcement to prioritize these cases, conduct thorough investigations, and dedicate resources to solving these crimes. We need mental health support for survivors like myself. The trauma of such experiences is profound and long-lasting. Access to culturally competent mental health services is crucial for healing and recovery. This bill can help ensure that survivors receive the crucial support they need to cope and rebuild their lives.

This isn't just about me. It's about all the women who have been attacked, threatened, and silenced. It's about the missing, the murdered, and the forgotten. I stand here, a survivor, demanding change. Demanding justice. Demanding that our lives be valued. We will not be invisible. We will not be silent. We will not stop fighting until every missing sister is found, until every perpetrator is brought to justice, and until our communities are safe. Because our lives matter. Our stories matter. Please support House Bill 3198 and help ensure that we are not forgotten.