



February 3, 2025

Chair Kropf, Vice Chair Chotzen, Vice Chair Wallan, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

Re: House Bill 3198 – Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People, Support

Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is William Miller. I'm Blackfeet and Cherokee and serve as the Executive Director of the NAYA Action Fund, a Native-led organization that builds political power and advances advocacy for Native communities in Oregon and Washington. I'm honored to submit this testimony in strong support of HB 3198 and the -1 amendment, which takes a crucial step in addressing the ongoing crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP) throughout Oregon.

For generations, Native communities have faced the devastating reality of our relatives going missing or being murdered, often with little to no accountability. Families are left without answers, justice is too often denied, and systemic failures allow these tragedies to persist. HB 3198 and the -1 amendment strengthens the state's response to this ongoing crisis by dedicating staff within the agency's tribal affairs office to support leading efforts to address MMIWP. This dedicated team will provide victim services, outreach, education, and prevention programs while fostering stronger interagency collaboration with tribal governments, Native-led organizations, law enforcement, and community leaders.

HB 3198 prioritizes the development of data collection systems to track MMIWP cases, identify patterns, and inform targeted health interventions and violence prevention programs. By centering Native voices and ensuring direct engagement with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes, urban Native populations, and community-based organizations, this bill enhances both prevention and response efforts. Strengthening partnerships between law enforcement and Native communities will also help build trust and improve coordination in addressing these cases.

The need for this legislation cannot be overstated. Native women and girls experience violence at disproportionately high rates, and many cases go unsolved due to a lack of coordination, data collection, and prioritization by state and federal agencies. By passing HB 3198, Oregon can make a meaningful commitment to ensuring justice, safety, and systemic change for Indigenous communities.

On behalf of the NAYA Action Fund, I urge your support for HB 3198 and the -1 amendment.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William Miller", is written over a white background.

William Miller
Executive Director