

Submitter: Kimberly Lining
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3198

My name is Kimberly. I am the founder of MMIW SEARCH AND HOPE ALLIANCE. I first hand work with families of the missing and murdered. I watch how the cases get swept under the rug and the missing and murdered indigenous community gets forgotten. Often when I call numbers on the missing flyers they aren't even in the right city. Case numbers and photos don't match. It sometimes takes weeks to sort out the missing persons right info. But not before having so many doors slammed in my face. There's little information given or available. A lot of times there isn't even a follow up call. There is currently a dead Native Jane Doe at the Multnomah County Medical Examiners office, where her remains have been there almost 2 years with no attention brought forth. I've attended court trials where I watch great injustices happen. For example in the case of Sascha Elliot who was murdered in Portland and her killer walked free. The case of Amber Eastman who was followed , chased and a gun held to her head and the perpetrator walked, how about the the families whom get no justice after their family members have been murdered. The case of Prscilla Aldana who was shot in the head by her domestic partner, but the police did not care to go to her domestic partners home and press him on her whereabouts. Everyday I watch as the indigenous communities missing and murdered go unheard. I hear the heartbreak of the families and watch the destruction that happens afterwards. There is no voice for Oregon indigenous communities and the numbers keep rising. Rising higher than any other ethnic demographic in Oregon. Our own state needs to help our indigenous communities before their families are gone forever. There are no educational programs on how to inform these communities on better protecting themselves, their families, their children and their communities. This is one of the biggest travestys Oregon can't continue to ignore. Oregon must start creating a voice for the voiceless in and around our indigenous communities.