

February 5, 2025

House Committee on Judiciary
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 3198-1 – Support

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share Multnomah County’s support for HB 3198-1, which creates a structure within the Oregon Health Authority to address the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous people. Multnomah County recognizes and elevates the ongoing need to focus resources across the federal, state, and local levels to address violence against Indigenous relatives, and stands in solidarity with other governmental jurisdictions, organizations, and Urban Native and Tribal communities in building awareness about this public health crisis.

In our 2025 Multnomah County legislative agenda, we call out a need for continued work to leverage state, local, and Tribal resources to solve missing, murdered, and trafficking cases involving Indigenous people. In 2024, our Board also took action to raise awareness and support a proclamation around the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous people. As a result, we strongly support HB 3198-1 because it continues the important work of addressing the crisis by providing victim services, outreach, education, and prevention services related to missing and murdered Indigenous persons.

The U.S. Department of Justice found that 58% of Native women and 51% of Native men reported intimate partner violence in their lifetime, and the National Vital Statistics System found that age-adjusted homicide rates for Native women were double the national average. Additionally, the [National Institute of Justice](#) reported in 2016 that 84% of Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime, with over half experiencing sexual violence. The disproportionate rates of violence against Indigenous people, particularly women and girls, demand urgent and sustained action.

Multnomah County stands in solidarity with our tribal governments and Native American Community Based Organizations in recognizing this legislation is a critical step toward ensuring justice, safety, and support for Indigenous communities in Oregon.

Thank you for considering our comments on HB 3198-1. This legislation is not just necessary, it is long overdue. Indigenous communities have suffered the devastating impacts of systemic neglect, and this legislation represents a meaningful step toward addressing the missing and murdered Indigenous persons crisis with the attention and resources it requires.

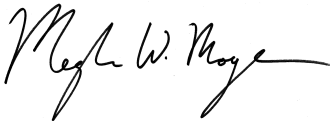
Sincerely,
Multnomah County Board of Commissioners



Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair



Julia Brim-Edwards
Commissioner, District 3



Meghan Moyer
Commissioner, District 1



Vince Jones-Dixon,
Commissioner, District 4



Shannon Singleton
Commissioner, District 2

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