



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

April 23, 2025

The Honorable Kayse Jama, Chair
Senate Committee on Rules

Subject: Senate Concurrent Resolution 31

Chair Jama and members of the committee, my name is Larry Bennett, and I serve as Assistant Director of the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) Correctional Services Division. I am providing written testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 31 (SCR 31).

The DOC would like to join in commending the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) on its fiftieth anniversary.

The LCIS is made up of 13 members who represent Oregon's 9 federally recognized tribes. Among other roles, this legislative commission liaisons with Oregon state government agencies. For several decades, the DOC has conferred, communicated, and coordinated with the LCIS in matters affecting the Native American prison population. The members of the LCIS have served a critical role in working with and supporting the DOC in matters involving Native American adults in custody (AICs) such as educational programs, spiritual services, cultural events, culturally specific rehabilitation programs, and the unique transitional needs of Native Americans when returning to their communities.

The LCIS is a critical partner for DOC in fulfilling its mission to protect communities, promote accountability, and transform lives. Having direct contact with the LCIS and, therefore, direct contact with each Oregon tribe, is a unique privilege and advantage to the Oregon DOC in its work, and something that is very much valued and appreciated. Our working relationship with the LCIS has a direct, positive impact on the culturally honoring and rehabilitative programs and activities DOC can offer to its Native American population.

Members of the LCIS are active in communicating, partnering, and supporting DOC. Many conduct prison site visits throughout the year; attend Native American programs, services, and events throughout the prisons; and some members serve as DOC volunteers. This allows members to have direct contact with Native American AICs, which is critical in supporting these individuals and allowing them to stay connected to their family, friends, and culture.

DOC joins in honoring the Legislative Commission on Indian Services on their fiftieth anniversary, recognizes the value of their support to our department, and looks forward to many more years of working together.

Thank you for your time.

Submitted by:
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