



Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

BACKGROUND

Murder is the third leading cause of death among American Indian and Alaska Native women, yet there is no adequate system in place of reporting and investigating these deaths.*

- In 2016, there were 5,712 cases of MMIW, but only 116 of them were logged in the Dept. of Justice database.*
- One of the reasons for the difficulty of obtaining correct information on the actual amount of missing and murdered Indigenous Women is because of an issue called racial misclassification:* the incorrect coding of an individual's race or ethnicity. An example of this is American Indian individuals being incorrectly coded as white.
- All of this is to emphasize that there is a need for changes to public information systems on missing people, specifically Native and Indigenous women, while also gaining cooperation from law enforcement agencies to strengthen accurate reporting, identifying, and investigating of missing Native community members.
- Washington state recently passed a MMIW bill, and we hope to follow their lead on taking the first step to establishing a comprehensive reporting system here in Oregon.

WHAT HB 2625 DOES



HB 2625 would direct the Department of State Police to study how to increase criminal justice resources relating to missing & murdered Native American women in Oregon. The study should determine how to increase criminal justice protective and investigative resources for reporting, identification and investigation of missing & murdered Native American women in this state.

Through this study, the department shall consult with:

The Commission of Indian Services



- o Convene meetings with tribal and local law enforcement partners, federally recognized tribes, and urban Indian orgs to determine scope of problem and find ways to create partnerships to increase reporting, identification and investigation of missing & murdered Native American women in OR

The US Dept of Justice

- o Determine ways to increase information sharing and coordination of resources to focus on reporting/identification/investigation of missing & murdered Native American women in OR

SUPPORT SHARED

MMIW USA
City of Portland
Ceasefire Oregon
Greater Portland NOW
Oregon Black Assembly
Oregon Student Association
Partnership for Safety & Justice
Multnomah County Chair Kafoury
Columbia River ANB/ANS Camp 49
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

Representative Tawna Sanchez
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*Data sourced from Urban Indian Health Institute Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls, 2018