



# PRESS RELEASE

## OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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### **Oregon House Votes to Shed Light on Cases of Missing, Murdered Indigenous Women**

*Murder is the third leading cause of death among indigenous women*

SALEM – Legislation aimed at increasing resources towards investigating cases of missing and murdered indigenous women passed the Oregon House of Representatives unanimously today.

“What we know and understand as indigenous people in this state is that if a criminal act happens on tribal lands, it is very likely that nothing will happen,” said the bill’s chief sponsor Rep. Tawna Sanchez (D-Portland). “We need to ensure that criminal investigations and the protections afforded off of tribal lands extend to those on tribal lands. This legislation is an important first step in ensuring that justice is available to everyone in our state no matter who they are or where they live.”

[House Bill 2625](#) directs the Oregon State Police to study how to increase criminal justice and investigative resources toward past and future cases of missing and murdered indigenous women. Signed on as sponsors are a bipartisan group of 40 legislators.

According to the [Urban Indian Health Institute Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls](#), there were 5,712 cases of murdered and missing indigenous women and girls. Only 116 of those cases were logged into the Department of Justice database. That same report noted that murder is the third leading cause of death among indigenous women.

The legislation seeks to build an accurate picture of missing and murdered indigenous women in Oregon through research and data collection. Further, it serves as a first step to improving relationships between tribal communities and law enforcement.

Oregon House Democrats are committed to seeking access to justice and equal rights for all, and specifically to ensuring our justice system is fair for all.

The legislation now moves to the Oregon Senate for consideration.

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