

Testimony in support of **HB 1199**.

This is written in support of HB 1199. As someone who has worked as a federal law enforcement officer for the past twenty-six years, I have witnessed firsthand the breakdown that can occur when an incident happens with an Indigenous individual or in an Indigenous community. The restrictions on information sharing and interagency cooperation currently experienced by the criminal justice system increases the response time to these incidents.

The communication abilities outlined in this bill will greatly improve the effectiveness of the criminal justice system response to missing and murdered Indigenous individuals, and will allow the system to share the necessary information to appropriately respond to these incidents. Additionally, streamlining this process with a task force will focus our resources and reduce duplication of services because multiple agencies will not have to work on the same case in a silo the way they currently do.