TOPIC: In Support of Advocating for Heightened Awareness of Missing Native American Women.

WHEREAS, The Oregon Student Nurses’ Association (OSNA) is in support of advocating for the missing Native American Women because as of 2016, the National Crime Information Center has reported 5,712 cases of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls (https://www.nativewomenswilderness.org/mmiw, n.d.); and

WHEREAS, The lack of communication combined with jurisdictional issues between state, local, federal, and tribal law enforcement, make it nearly impossible to begin the investigative process (https://www.nativewomenswilderness.org/mmiw, n.d.); and

WHEREAS, Homicide ranks as the fourth leading cause of death for Native American women and girls ages 1-19 (Elizabeth Darling, 2021, p. 159, https://heinonline.org/HOL/LandingPage?handle=hein.journals/usab69&div=17&id=&page= ); and


WHEREAS, Students are often the voice for the voiceless during social justice movements. The power and privilege of higher education allows for the utilization of platforms as students and experiences of tribal community members to bring awareness and help contribute to change. (Devon Isaacs & Amanda Young, 2019, https://doi.org/10.26077/5t7q-j016); and

WHEREAS, The classification of missing and murdered indigenous women are often focusing blame on the victims themselves, instead of focusing on the mitigation of the issue. Natives of Canada have been isolated by colonization, and often have no means of transport other than hitchhiking, which is vilified by the government,

**WHEREAS,** only 116 cases were logged into the US Department of Justice’s federal missing person database, NameUs, out of the 5,712 reports of missing American Indian and Native Alaskan girls and women. (Nativehope, n.d.) [https://www.nativehope.org/en-us/understanding-the-issue-of-missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women](https://www.nativehope.org/en-us/understanding-the-issue-of-missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women) ; and

**WHEREAS,** Advocating for those missing Native American women tends to lead to the ignorance of government officials to ignore practical, sovereignty-first reforms and instead hoarding the kind of power that keeps this crisis alive. (Carolyn Smith-Morris, 2020, p. 1); and

**WHEREAS,** In crimes committed on tribal land, the local tribal government has little to no power in investigations or prosecutions due to struggles with jurisdiction (Mallone, M. 2021, p. 10. SELECTIVE JUSTICE: A CRISIS OF MISSING AND MURDERED ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN. *Alaska Law Review*); and

**WHEREAS,** The historical traumas that have been inflicted on indigenous Alaskan women impacts how they respond to trauma, abuse and how they report this to healthcare providers today. Carron, R. (2020). Health disparities in American Indians/Alaska Natives: Implications for nurse practitioners. *The Nurse Practitioner*, 45(6), 26-32.

**RESOLVED,** That the Oregon Student Nurses’ Association is raising awareness of the Native American missing women; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That the Oregon Student Nurses’ Association encourage nursing students to seek understanding about this issue on local and national levels; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That the Oregon Student Nurses’ Association bring additional voices to help advocate for those who cannot be heard; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That the OSNA is hoping to bring further awareness and understanding the tragedy in not only Oregon and the United States, but internationally to Canada too, who also has indigenous populations suffering and in mourning from the loss of community members; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That the Oregon Student Nurses’ Association is raising awareness for the legal aspect of the situation that prevents investigation and prosecution for crimes committed on tribal lands against indigenous women; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Oregon Student Nurses’ Association (OSNA) encourage its constituents to advocate and support for research on risk factors pertaining to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.