



A Confederation of the Salish,
Pend d' Oreille
and Kootenai Tribes

THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
OF THE FLATHEAD NATION

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A People of Vision

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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Judiciary Committee
Honorable Scott Sales, Chair
Honorable Jennifer Fielder, Vice Chair
64th Montana Legislature
Capitol Building – Helena, MT

RE: HB 25 – Revise laws relating to housing for offenders
Sponsor: Rep. Margaret MacDonald

Chairman Sales and Committee Members:

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (“CSKT”) supports HB 25 as it provides necessary housing assistance to certain offenders in order to achieve an approved parole plan.

As many of you may know, coming up with money for rent, food and utilities can be challenging and trying. This bill provides the potential of up to three months of rental assistance for individuals existing the Department of Corrections system. This assistance helps alleviate financial hardships on those individuals exiting corrections. A landlord is more likely to rent to someone who provides more than one month of rent. This assistance also provides financial stability while the offender seeks and receives important mental health and substance abuse services.

Aside from alleviating financial pressures this bill would provide for more effective services. Having an address and residence enables a service provider to better communicate with an individual. This allows them to focus on their positive life changes and community re-entry. The end result of more successful services is reduced recidivism.

HB 25 may make the difference between success and failure for many offenders, as housing assistance is limited in our community. The result of obtaining housing provides individuals with sense of responsibility, a substance free environment, and a positive start. This only increases the opportunity for success. Their success means less State money spent on them in the corrections system and reduced recidivism.

We ask you to join us in supporting our Montana and Tribal citizen with successful and sustained community re-entry. Please vote yes on HB25.

Respectfully submitted,

Vernon Finley, Chairman
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes