



# 2022 AG REQUEST LEGISLATION

## CREATING AN ALERT TO HELP LOCATE MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND PEOPLE

### What needs to change?

Indigenous women go missing in Washington State at rates higher than any other ethnic group.<sup>1</sup> An accurate count of how many are affected is difficult, making the scope of the problem uncertain. Additionally, indigenous women throughout the country experience a lack of media coverage and a disparity in information sharing when they are reported missing.<sup>2</sup>

Due to a variety of social, systemic and cultural barriers, adequately addressing the crisis of missing indigenous people throughout Washington State remains a challenge. Tribes, community members and grassroots activists have done substantial work to identify the challenges that directly impact the rates of violence against tribal and urban Indigenous communities, and to raise awareness about this issue.

By providing law enforcement and the general public with the tools necessary to be part of the solution, we can quickly and safely locate missing Indigenous women and people.

### What is the solution? - [HB 1725](#)

Immediate action is essential. Endangered adult and Amber alerts have proven to be effective tools to quickly find missing people and bringing them home safe. Silver Alerts, for example, help to locate vulnerable adults diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia by broadcasting information on message signs, in highway advisory radio messages and by providing information to local and regional news agencies.

KEY  
STATS

# 4X

Indigenous women go missing at a rate 4x higher than white women in Washington State.<sup>3</sup>

### What are other jurisdictions doing?

This will be the country's first alert system specifically for missing and murdered Indigenous people. It can serve as a model for other states. 37 states, including Washington, have a Silver Alert system for missing vulnerable adults.

States that report Silver Alert data show high rates of success in locating missing individuals.<sup>4</sup>

### What does this legislation do?

HB 1725 creates a Missing Indigenous Women and Persons Alert, patterned after Silver Alerts. When activated, the alerts allow law enforcement to provide messages to the public through press releases to regional media, radio stations and other outlets. When enough information is provided, messages may also go up on the variable message boards along highways.

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- 2: National Congress of American Indians, Research Policy Update: State of the Data on Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Girls (2021), [https://www.ncai.org/policy-research-center/research-data/prc-publications/NCAI\\_VAWA\\_Data\\_Update\\_2021\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.ncai.org/policy-research-center/research-data/prc-publications/NCAI_VAWA_Data_Update_2021_FINAL.pdf)
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- 4: Wisconsin: <https://www.cbs58.com/news/wisconsin-silver-alert-program-has-96-percent-success-rate>; Utah: <https://www.abc4.com/news/top-stories/95-success-utahs-new-silver-alert-system-has-helped-find-19-or-20-missing-seniors/>; Texas: <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/verify/verify-do-silver-alerts-work/287-481452421#:~:text=Since%202007%2C%20when%20the%20alerts,That's%20a%2094%25%20success%20rate.>