



THE OREGON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
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**TESTIMONY OF KERRY TYMCHUK
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RURAL COMMUNITIES, LAND USE AND WATER
HEARING ON HB 4009
February 1, 2016**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee

For the record, my name is Kerry Tymchuk, Executive Director of the Oregon Historical Society. The Oregon Historical Society is dedicated to making Oregon's long, rich history visible and accessible to all. For more than a century, we have served as the state's collective memory, gathering and preserving a vast collection of artifacts, photographs, films, manuscript, books, and oral histories.

It has been my honor today to accompany the Yasui Family members on their visit to the Capitol, and OHS is very proud to be able display the Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded to Yin Masui—the first Oregonian to receive the Medal of Freedom—at the Capitol today and at our museum from tomorrow through February 19. Through this display, Oregonians can learn more about the remarkable and courageous story of Yin Masui.

OHS is also proud to be the repository of many items from the Yasui Family, some of which are displayed in our permanent "Oregon My Oregon" exhibit. Should HB 4009 become law, OHS would be very proud to help lead the annual efforts to commemorate March 28 as "Minoru Yasui Day." I envision that we could do this through exhibits, programs, lectures, information shared on our social media platforms, and the creation of curriculum that could be used by Oregon's teachers.

The enduring legacy and lesson from Min Yasui's life is perhaps best captured in his own eloquent words: "If we believe in America, if we believe in equality and democracy, if we believe in law and justice, then each of us, when we see or believe errors are being made, has an obligation to make every effort to correct them."

Those words, and Min Yasui's life, are truly worth celebrating each and every year.