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HB 2594 COFA Law Enforcement Eligibility

Good afternoon Chair Barker, Co-Vice Chairs Williamson and Olson, members of the Judiciary Committee

My name is David Anitok. I am a member of the Marshallese Community here in Oregon and I am the Community Organizer for CANN.

I would like make a few wrap up points to what Loyd and Nakita have already said. As many of you know this legislative body has already enacted legislation over the last three sessions to bring more opportunity to my COFA brothers and sisters.

Thanks to you, we have rectified the onerous restriction of COFA residents to one year drivers licenses. HB 2522 rectified that in 2013 and now COFA residents are getting 8 year drivers license like everyone else. Then in 2016 you passed HB 4071, with passage of the COFA Premium Assistance Health Care plan, and for the first time Oregon COFA residents are eligible for Medicaid-like benefits.

HB 2594 represents another important step in helping to repair some of the remaining gaps not specifically addressed in the treaty. It goes without saying that as our populations grow in communities in Oregon we need equitable opportunities to compete for all jobs. Law Enforcement should not be excluded, especially since we serve freely and enthusiastically in the Military.

I respectfully ask for your vote,

David Anitok
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