



Native American Youth and Family Center

5135 NE Columbia Blvd, Portland, OR 97218 | p 503.288.8177 | f 503.288.1260 | nayapdx.org

March 16, 2021

To: Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Girod, Members of the Senate Committee on Rules

RE: Senate Bill 791 – Support

Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Girod, and Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is William Miller, I am Blackfeet and Cherokee and I represent the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) located in Portland, Oregon. Founded by the community, for the community, the NAYA Family Center is a family of numerous tribes and voices who are rooted in sustaining tradition and building cultural wealth. We provide culturally specific programs and services that guide our people in the direction of personal success and balance through cultural empowerment. Our continuum of lifetime services creates a wraparound, holistic healthy environment that is Youth Centered, Family Driven, and Elder Guided. I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 791.

NAYA Family Center has worked for years to strengthen our advocacy and policy work while synergistically building relationships with local and statewide leaders. As we have worked to build a robust advocacy and policy approach, it has become apparent that our current electoral systems have deeply rooted flaws, grounded in colonization. Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) would increase opportunity for more folks to run and level the playing field by providing more choices for voters. This would allow for candidates to work together, not against each other. Our current system is structured in such a way that those who raise the most money are the ones who are likely elected. This continues to exacerbate political polarization and divisiveness.

We must work together toward a system that provides equal opportunity and access within our electoral processes – Ranked Choice Voting does just that. Therefore, on behalf of the Native American Youth and Family Center we urge the passage of Senate Bill 791.

Thank you,

William Miller
Community Advocacy Manager