

February 17, 2022

House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Management
900 Court Street NE
Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Grayber and Committee Members:

I am writing a testimony of support for the passing of the Senate Bill 1509 to dedicate Highway 35 as the Oregon Nisei Veterans World War II Memorial Highway. I am the President and CEO of Go For Broke National Education Center, a nonprofit organization located in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, dedicated to educate and inspire through the legacy of the World War II American veterans of Japanese ancestry.

Thirty-three thousand Japanese American (Nisei) soldiers served our country honorably during World War II while many of their families were among 120,000 incarcerated in American concentration camps. The 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team was one of the segregated units comprised of these honorable men, and is recognized as the most decorated unit in our country's military history for its size and length of service. Still, they faced discrimination when they returned home.

We can honor these heroes with permanent roadside markers to help our youth and next generations ask questions and learn how American citizens demonstrated pride over prejudice.

Sincerely,



Mitchell T. Maki
President and CEO
Go For Broke National Education Center
Los Angeles, CA