

Date: 2/28/2023

For: Senate Rules Committee

RE: Support for SB 612 y SB 911

Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the committee,

My name is Beatriz Osuna and I live in Washington County and I am writing to you respectfully to raise awareness of a problem. There is a lack of quality interpretation for those who speak indigenous languages, this legislature has made significant strides to ensure that all Oregonians have the right to understand and be understood. However, we still have a current lack of indigenous interpretation services too often and we can still say that we have witnessed that even to receive a service in DMV we lack interpretation services in Spanish this complicates even more the situation for those who do not speak Spanish and who require a translator. In our community we need your support to get SB 612 and SB 911 approved. Your support will help address these important issues and ensure that Oregon native communities have access to quality interpretation services.

SB 911: Establish a commission for indigenous communities in Oregon.

SB12: The result will be if the Development of linguistic competence assessment mechanisms for indigenous languages is approved, which will allow interpreters to demonstrate their language skills and obtain formal accreditation and in turn the right for these interpreters to receive a living wage. Our community asks for your support for these important projects.

SB 612 will result in the development of language proficiency evaluation mechanisms for Indigenous languages, allowing interpreters to demonstrate their language skills and obtain formal credentialing. The bill will also allow Indigenous interpreters to be paid a living wage and prevent Indigenous Oregonians from being forced to pay for their own interpretation through a potentially unreliable or unqualified interpreter.

I urge your support of these important bills!

Sincerely,

Beatriz Osuna