

Oregon House of Representatives  
House Committee on Business and Labor  
Hearing on HB 2998  
March 13, 2019

Honorable Chair Barker, Vice Chair Barreto, Vice Chair Bynum and Members of the House Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill.

House Bill 2988 removes the English language only requirement for documents related to business organizations that are submitting for filing to the Secretary of State. This requirement has created barriers and diminished opportunities for entrepreneurs with Limited-English-Proficiency.

My name is Judith Terrazas. I am the owner of small business in Oregon, and I would like to let you know about my experience when I was opening my business. The comprehension of all documents was difficult for me even though I can speak and read in English. Starting a business is something that is very important. You need to be sure about everything that you are doing and all the paperwork you are signing. It is important to have the opportunity to know exactly what you need to do for your business in your own language. It gives you more security about what are you doing, and knowing that we have the opportunity, regardless of how well we speak English, can have a very good impact on the community. At the same time, we will be able to better contribute to the economy of the state. I appreciate that you considering give the opportunity to many people.

Based on estimates given to us by the Secretary of State Staff, the translation of filing forms could provide an addition of over 17,000 businesses per biennium. The Small Business Administration has found that the average minority owned business in Oregon hires seven employees. According to the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, in the state of Oregon, there are over 225,000 individuals with Limited English Proficiency, they all deserve access to entrepreneurship and financial opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration,



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