



Native American Youth and Family Center

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

April 6, 2021

To: Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chair Drazan, Vice-Chair Holvey, and Members of the House Committee on Rules

RE: House Bill 2499 – Support

Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chair Drazan, Vice-Chair Holvey, 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 House Bill 2499.

NAYA Family Center has worked for years to strengthen our advocacy and policy work at the local, statewide, and federal levels. A portion of our work is supporting the American Indian/Alaska Native community in registering to vote and providing voter education. Our state has come a long way with Automatic Voter Registration (AVR). However, we can do more to continue providing access and opportunity to the ballot. HB 2499 would extend AVR to the Oregon Health Authority and any other state agency designated by the Governor. This bill would provide increased access to voters without electronic signatures on file. By expanding these opportunities, Oregon will move in a direction that allows us to have more equitable access the ballot while synergistically allowing us to keep our electoral processes safe and secure.

It's clear that voting is the backbone of our democracy, we have an obligation to provide access to ensure we maintain our democracy. It's with access and democracy in mind, the Native American Youth and Family Center urges the passage of House Bill 2499.

Thank you,

William Miller
Government Affairs Manager