



February 6, 2023

To: Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Nguyen, Vice Chair Scharf and Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

Re: House Bill 2728 – Support

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Nguyen, Vice Chair Scharf, and Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is William Miller (Blackfoot/Cherokee) and I have the honor of serving as the Executive Director of the NAYA Action Fund. Founded by the community, for the community, the NAYA Action Fund is a 501(c)(4) social welfare organization with a mission to expand political advocacy and build electoral power in partnership with the Native community. The NAYA Action Fund provides tools to shape public policy, cultivate leadership, and works to elect champions who uplift and support Native people. Our vision of systemic change is youth centered, family driven, and elder guided. I write today in support House Bill 2728.

Our work provides critical social services for communities in need. One of these critical services is for those experiencing food insecurity. All too often, families in our community must grapple with paying rent or putting food on the table. These two do not have to be mutually exclusive. According to the Oregon Hunger Taskforce, the American Indian/ Alaska Native community faces the highest rates of hunger and food insecurity compared to their counterparts. Allowing communities in need the ability to access additional resources through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) while increasing opportunities for community to receive more food from participating farmers markets, farm share programs, and select independently owned grocery stores, will enrich the lives of our most vulnerable communities. HB 2728 would help bridge the gap of food insecurity while putting more on the table for those in need.

The NAYA Action Fund works to uplift, support, and enrich the lives of those in our community. Addressing food insecurity while providing opportunities to increase food opportunities will ultimately mean families won't have to decide between paying rent and putting food on the table. Our communities deserve better, they deserve more. It's with this in mind that I urge you to support HB 2728.

Wado (Thank You),

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William Miller", is written over a white, starburst-shaped graphic that is part of the background design.

William Miller
Executive Director