

Submitter: Elizabeth Ilem
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB612

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

My name is Elizabeth Klein Ilem and I am a member of the Immigrant Welcoming Congregation at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Portland.

The experience of many Oregonians who don't speak English as a first language has been increasingly well served thanks to efforts by the Oregon Legislature. However there is a group of over 35,000 Oregonians who have not been included in this important benefit which can impact their ability to obtain life-saving care, critical services and representation in legal matters. These are Oregonians whose primary language is an Indigenous one.

I support SB 612 which will result in language proficiency evaluation mechanisms allowing interpreters to demonstrate their skill and receive formal credentialing. I also support SB 911 which will establish a commission for Original Peoples from South America, Central America, and Mexico within the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office. This will ensure that the voices of those in these communities will be represented in government, especially in policy proposals that concern Indigenous Oregonians.

I urge your support of these two important bills. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Klein Ilem