

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 Gaspar Lopez Jimenez, originally from Guatemala and I live in Washington County and my main language is Popti' and I am addressing you respectfully for a problem that affects many of my community, such as the lack of interpreters in our community in our language and this has generated that our children lose a little interest in continuing with the tradition of continuing to speak in our language.

Simply getting help sometimes in Spanish is hard now imagine having less help from interpreting service in our language. Please, we ask for your support for this measure, SB 612 and SB 911. Is very important to be communicated between our same community since there are events, help or information in which we do not have access since this information is in another language and many of our community does not know about this until someone happens to tell us about this. It is a problem because for many of our families they do not speak Spanish and sometimes we must miss work because there is no one who can translate in an effective way or in the language we need.

We urgently ask you to support this measure since our community needs to have these translation services, because sometimes we must adapt to any interpretation service or sometimes even pay out of our pockets for this service for us. If these measures are approved, we would have translation, and this is really what we need.

Thank you for your time and we hope that your vote is always thinking about improving our community.

Sincerely

Gaspar Lopez