

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 Jendric and I live in Forest Grove Oregon. I am writing in support of SB 612 and SB 911. Everyone should be able to be understood for any reason everywhere, especially during difficult times.

Although Oregon itself has small population of indigenous people from Mexico, Central and South America, that should not be a reason why we shouldn't have language interpretation for them in every county. Being singled out because of a language barrier can be very inconvenient for anybody where there needs to be a solution. For example, some community members face language barriers when people interact with the law, or attend a medical appointment, or simply by simply visiting the grocery store.

Indigenous language go way back before any of us were even born. Even though in the United States main language spoken is English that should not take away great value of indigenous languages that are currently spoken in Oregon. Indigenous language is a cultural inspiration to all of us that still lives on to this day and that shouldn't be forgotten or taken away.

As a Latino myself, I understand that some cultural things I just follow not only because my family brought it on to me, but because people around me speak it as well. However there are many people who are not fortunate enough to speak or understand English like myself. So, it is a privilege that I can help other Latinos in my community. I would want the same for indigenous people in my community to have the same opportunity to also be heard and understood.

Please vote yes to SB 612 and SB 911

Gracias,

Jendric