

Submitter: Jacob Anderson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB612

I'm writing in support of SB 612.

I am writing on my own behalf, but I work in the translation department at a non-profit in Portland. My department is frequently asked to provide interpretation and translation for indigenous languages from Latin America, but due to a lack of understanding (Mesoamerican languages such as Mixteco and Q'anjob'al are frequently referred to as "dialects" of Spanish rather than languages in their own right) as well as historic discrimination against speakers of these languages, there is a lack of resources and funding for speakers of these languages.

This means that speakers of these languages are often forced to communicate in a language such as Spanish that they do not understand well, through informal interpreters such as family members, or miss out on vital communication entirely.

Providing funding for interpreter training and credentialing in these languages as well as living wages for interpreters will help the tens of thousands of speakers of these languages in Oregon have access to the legal and medical help they need.

Thank you,
Jacob Anderson