

FAIRSHOT FOR ALL

Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp, and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules



The Fair Shot For All Coalition supports SB 612 + SB 911.

The ability to understand and be understood is a fundamental human right not currently being recognized in Oregon because Indigenous language interpreters are not paid adequately for their unique and highly valuable skills. They face unnecessary barriers to credentialing, thus limiting interpretation services for Indigenous communities.

Without adequate access to interpretation, Oregonians who speak Indigenous languages face tremendous barriers to participating in society and experience devastating human rights violations, including delay or denial of life-saving medical care, inaccessibility of critical services (e.g. safety, public benefits and social programs), wrongful imprisonment, and unjust deportation and family separation.

We urge your YES vote on SB 911 and SB 612 to strengthen our communities and state as a whole by ensuring that everyone can understand and be understood especially when it matters most. By passing SB 911 and SB 612 we will:

Develop language proficiency evaluation mechanisms for Indigenous languages, so interpreters can demonstrate their language skills and obtain formal credentialing and recognition as competent interpreters (SB 612)

Invest in Indigenous language interpretation to pay interpreters living wages and ensure that Indigenous language speakers don't have to pay for their own interpretation (SB 612)

Establish a formal commission for Original Peoples from South America, Central America, and Mexico to have direct influence in policy and law solutions (SB 911)

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