

Submitter: Amanda Ligon
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB612

Good afternoon and thank you so much for your time. I write to you as a white person, a long-term resident of Eugene and someone who deeply loves her community. I can trace my own lineage back to the first white settlers of this country, and don't need to look at history books to know deeply the many ways my ancestors took life, culture, and language away from Indigenous communities. This bill not only gives farmworkers better access to services, but also injects money into Indigenous communities by supporting Indigenous translators and serves to promote language preservation. It is my ancestral duty to right historical wrongs of colonization, and from that place in my heart, I urge you fiercely to pass this bill.

Farmworkers are absolutely vital to our communities, and among them there are members that speak one of over 25 Indigenous languages. Supporting this bill means giving them access to translation, which empowers them to understand and make decisions when needed. Indigenous language interpreters also are often themselves Indigenous language speakers from low-income communities, so this money not only benefits farmworkers, but also Indigenous folks who would get paid to support people in their native languages. This is would be a beautiful and much-needed change in our community. I urge you to vote yes on SB 612. Thank you for your time.