

3/7/2023

Dear Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

For the record, I am Jackie Leung, Executive Director of the Micronesian Islander Community (MIC). I am writing to you in support of SB 606, the Non-Profit Modernization Act.

The Micronesian Islander Community (MIC) is a non-profit based in Salem, Oregon that provides support and services to all Micronesians including Compact of Free Association (COFA) citizens who are residents of Oregon. The majority of our community lives along the I-5, from Marion and Polk County, to the tri counties (Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington), and Union county - La Grande and Island City. We have a total of 5 full-time staff, and 3 part-time staff leading this work to ensure the health and well-being of our Micronesian community.

Established since 2011, our organization has centered on the needs of our community. In the past few years, our portfolio has tightened into three areas of need: health (care), housing, and education. In the last half of 2022, we provided support to 990 households, which equaled nearly 5,300 individuals. The majority of outreach was for community members experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or were impacted because of the ongoing pandemic. MIC could not have provided this amount of support to Oregon Micronesians without generous support to lead this work.

To retain our staff, MIC has been intentional with ensuring our employees are paid a prevailing wage rate and provided generous leave, which was needed during the COVID-19 pandemic to reduce employee burnout. However, like other non-profits, MIC continues to be hard pressed for consistent funds. SB 606 ensures that nonprofits such as MIC continue to thrive in today's changing environment.

We strongly urge you to pass SB 606.

Sincerely,

  
Jackie Leung, MIC Executive Director