



March 13, 2023

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Nguyen, Vice Chair Scharf and Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

Re: House Bill 2869 – Support, Aging and Disability Services

Chair Gelser Reynolds, Vice Chair Nguyen, Vice Chair Scharf, and Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is William Miller (Blackfeet/ Cherokee) and I have the honor of serving as the Executive Director of the NAYA Action Fund located in Portland. Founded by the community, for the community, the NAYA Action Fund is a 501(c)(4) social welfare organization with a mission to expand political advocacy and build electoral power in partnership with the Native community in Oregon and Washington. Our vision of systemic change is youth centered, family driven, and elder guided. I write in support of House Bill 2869, increasing opportunities for aging and people with disabilities.

Elders in our community are wisdom-keepers, knowledge holders, and ceremony leaders. They are the ones we look to for guidance and to pass on life-teachings. HB 2869 seeks to develop recommendations for a rapidly increasing population that deserves to live and age with dignity. This bill seeks to focus attention on our elders in areas of housing, homelessness, workforce development, caregiving, behavioral and physical health, and intergenerational connectedness. Over the next decade, Oregon is slated to see a demographic shift of having more older adults than younger individuals. The time is now for Oregon to take the lead as an age-friendly state and protect some of our most vulnerable populations.

The NAYA Action Fund works in community to secure protections, provide opportunities, and increase the advancement of those most impacted by policy. This session, we hope you join us in providing opportunities for advancement among Oregon's Elders and those with disabilities.

On behalf of the NAYA Action Fund, we urge your support of HB 2869, which includes the proposed -2 amendments.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William Miller", is placed above the printed name.

William Miller
Executive Director