



Native American Youth and Family Center

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February 8, 2024

Chair Bynum, Vice Chair Diehl, Vice Chair Nguyen, and member of the House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business

RE: Support for IDA – HB 4131

Chair Bynum, Vice Chair Diehl, Vice Chair Nguyen and Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is Cecelia E. Lente. I am an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Isleta, in New Mexico. I have served as the IDA Coordinator at NAYA Family Center since 2017. I am writing to request your support for the investment in our statewide IDA program as outlined in HB 4131.

In the last six years as IDA Coordinator at NAYA I have witnessed firsthand the impact IDA has not only on the saver but the community. If you're a business saver, homeownership or an educational IDA saver the individual in turn can give back to the community. Also, community wealth building and intergenerational wealth building are all tools you develop during the IDA process. Financial wellness is a valuable tool for all families and something we work with participants in a culturally relevant manner.

In 2019 I was able to purchase my first home with help from the GOALS IDA program. As a first time homebuyer at 58 years old, I can attest to the advantages of Financial wealth building opportunities and what that can mean for families starting out. I am a survivor and If I can do the work, there are so many others that can do the same. This is what inspires me to do what I do. Meeting families and individuals where they are at and watching them utilize the valuable tools and resources IDA provides.

I urge you to support HB_4131. Without legislative action, the IDA program is at risk of shrinking. This will leave the most vulnerable of our population at risk. By continuing to invest in this program, we can continue to give our most vulnerable populations in Oregon a chance to create intergenerational wealth in Oregon.

Ker-kem (thank you),

Cecelia E. Lente
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