

Submitter: Rachel Crane  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2976  
Chair Hartman, Vice-Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Scharf, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rachel Crane and I reside in Portland, OR. I strongly support HB 2976.

All Oregonians deserve to be understood, but for 50,000+ speakers of Indigenous languages from present-day Mexico, Central, and South America, that's not the reality.

Many state entities require interpreters to be credentialed, which typically requires passing a language proficiency exam. However, no such exams exist for many Indigenous languages, preventing qualified interpreters from providing essential services.

HB 2976 would fund the development of proficiency evaluations, recruit and retain interpreters, and improve coordination of services—ensuring no Oregonian faces language barriers in critical situations like emergency rooms or legal proceedings.

I urge your support for this vital bill.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Crane