

Dear Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services,

I am writing to express my support for HB 2976, which appropriates funds to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for distribution to nonprofit organizations dedicated to the interpretation of indigenous languages.

The funding will: (1) help preserve indigenous languages, (2) ensure that members of indigenous communities have access to essential services and can fully participate in society, and (3) support interpreters, who play a critical role in bridging communication gaps and fostering inclusivity within our diverse communities.

Everyone deserves to understand and be understood, especially in hospitals, courts, schools, and government offices. When people can better access these important services, it helps create more prosperity and security in our families and communities.

By passing this bill, we are taking a significant step towards promoting linguistic diversity, cultural preservation, and social equity in Oregon. I urge you to support HB 2976.

Thank you for your consideration,

Erica Bailey  
District 44