

March 27, 2025

Good afternoon, Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and esteemed Committee members:

My name is Sander Choffat from the Federated State Micronesia, and I lived in Oregon for many years, and am an active member of the Islander community in Portland. I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your sponsorship of SB 442 that will shine a light on our concerns, as COFA citizens, living in Oregon.

Many COFA individuals are long-time residents and active voting constituents in Oregon, yet they continue to face barriers when accessing essential government social services. These challenges—ranging from healthcare and housing to education and public assistance. These have led to growing concerns within our communities about the responsiveness and effectiveness of the government systems meant to serve us.

I believe this legislation is crucial, as it provides a platform to clearly outline how the bill will directly benefit our communities and address the specific areas of concern that have long been overlooked. By highlighting the unique challenges faced by COFA citizens, SB 442 paves the way for more equitable access to resources, greater representation in policy decisions, and meaningful improvements in the quality of government services we rely on in a space where ongoing COFA issues are brought about, discussed and solutions could be .

Your commitment to championing this issue demonstrates a strong understanding of our mutual understanding of the Compact agreements and the needs of our COFA communities and a dedication to finding effective solutions, together.

I strongly urge you to continue advocating for the passage of SB 442, and I look forward to supporting your efforts to ensure its successful implementation.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Sander Choffat
Chuukese Community Member
Tigard, Oregon