



Greetings,

Chairman Patterson, Vice Chairman Hayden, and esteemed Committee members,

Oregon State Legislature

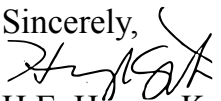
Subject: : Letter of Support for Senate Bill 442 (Establishment of a COFA Office)

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Ambassador of the Republic of Palau to the United States to respectfully urge your support for Senate Bill 442 (SB 442), which seeks to enhance accessibility to healthcare services for Pacific Islanders residing in Oregon, including members of the Palauan community.

As you may know, under the Compact of Free Association (COFA), Palauans, along with citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, have a unique and long-standing relationship with the United States. Many Palauans call Oregon home, contributing to the state's economy and communities in various sectors. However, despite their legal status and contributions, COFA citizens have faced barriers in accessing essential healthcare services. SB 442 would be a critical step in ensuring that COFA communities receive the healthcare they need, ultimately fostering healthier and more resilient families in Oregon.

I sincerely hope that you will lend your support to this vital legislation and advocate for its passage. Ensuring healthcare access for COFA citizens aligns with the values of inclusivity and fairness that Oregon has long championed. Your leadership on this issue would not only benefit the Pacific Islander community but also strengthen the ties between Oregon and the people of Palau.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you require any further information or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

H.E. Hersey Kyota

Ambassador of the Republic of Palau
Dean of the Diplomatic Corps
Embassy of Palau
Washington, D.C.