



**OREGON STATE SENATE**

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden and Committee Members,

I am Senator Todd Nash representing Senate District 29, which includes Wallowa, Union, Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, Sherman, and parts of Wasco Counties.

I am also pleased represent Eastern Oregon University located in LaGrande which is the home university to the largest number of COFA students in the US.

In my previous position as County Commissioner and of course with my close friendship with my predecessor, Senator Bill Hansell I have become aware of our long history with the COFA Islanders and I must say I am grateful for their love and dedication they have for the US as they demonstrate by serving in the US military service and working in service jobs, such as hotels, nursing homes, and the meat packing industry.

I signed on to SB 442 as I see that it is needed and a good and worthy investment for both our federal and state governments. Just like it is our duty to honor the treaties with our native American tribes in my district I believe we should honor our most recent Compact treaty we have with the three COFA nations, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau. This treaty guarantees that the COFA people living among us are entitled to the same Safety Net benefits as US citizens and legal immigrants. I believe that SB 442 is necessary for us to deliver on our commitment as without the COFA shared Office many will continue to rely on emergency rooms as they struggle to understand how to get timely medical treatment and the other benefits, such as housing, TANIF, and SNAP that is now available to them.

I therefore ask for your support on SB 442.

Todd Nash

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