

Submitter: Setareh Seyed Mofidi  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3768

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Setareh Seyed Mofidi, and I am an Iranian American resident of Oregon writing in strong support of HB 3768, which would recognize March 21st as Nowruz Day in our state.

Nowruz marks the Persian New Year and the arrival of spring. It's shared by millions of people across the Middle East, Central Asia, and around the world. Importantly, IT IS NOT A RELIGIOUS holiday, but a deeply cultural one that brings people together regardless of faith or background.

Since moving to Oregon, I've found myself celebrating Nowruz less and less. Not because I don't care, but because it feels like no one else around me knows or understands what it is. I've often felt isolated around a holiday that used to bring me so much joy and connection. That sense of invisibility is painful. But this bill gives me hope.

Recognizing Nowruz officially would mean so much—not only to me, but to many others who quietly celebrate it. Us Iranians don't like to ask for much, but it would help us feel seen and valued. It would also raise awareness among the broader public about a beautiful, peaceful tradition that deserves to be known and appreciated. Most of all, it could bring our community closer together. So many of us are looking for that connection.

Beyond cultural recognition, celebrating Nowruz publicly can have social and economic benefits. It encourages cultural tourism, community events, and small business participation. Just as Lunar New Year and Diwali have gained visibility and enriched their communities, so too can Nowruz in Oregon.

Most importantly, this bill represents inclusion. It tells Iranian Americans and others who celebrate Nowruz that our stories matter and that Oregon sees us.

Please vote yes on HB 3768 and help make Oregon a place where cultural diversity is honored, and all of us have the chance to feel a little less alone.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Setareh Seyed Mofidi  
Portland, Oregon