



# Native American Youth and Family Center

5135 NE Columbia Blvd, Portland, OR 97218 | p 503.288.8177 | f 503.288.1260 | nayapdx.org

February 18, 2019

Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing

RE: Senate Bill 608 – Support

Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is Paul Lumley, citizen of the Yakama Nation, and I have the honor of serving as the Executive Director at the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) located in Portland, Oregon. NAYA is a wraparound agency, serving roughly 2,000 individuals and impacting the lives of over 10,000 individuals throughout the region each year. We have services for youth of all ages and a wide array of family services. Additionally, NAYA offers a range of education, health, housing, economic development and community support programs.

Stable and affordable homes are vital to address the long-term stressors and impacts that affect the community that NAYA serves and provides opportunities for success, which is why the NAYA Board of Directors has chosen to support SB 608 as a policy priority. This critical piece of legislation would provide stable housing for families all across Oregon. Stable and affordable housing is the key that maintains stability throughout the many lives of the community members who walk through our doors each day.

Our children and families are counting on the Legislature to take a stance and vote to support the sustainability of housing protections by voting yes on SB 608. Our communities deserve stable housing without fear of eviction as a result of increased monthly rent or by facing a no-cause eviction. Should we continue to ignore this ever-growing crisis, this will only result in continued and long-term displacement within the communities that are the most vulnerable.

On behalf of the Native American Youth and Family Center, I strongly urge the passage of SB 608. Oregonians deserve a stronger, healthier, and more stable community for all.

Thank you,

B. Paul Lumley  
Executive Director