



State Senator Kayse Jama

Senate District 24 (D-East Portland)

Native land of Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Bands of Chinook, Tualatin Kalapuya, Molalla, and many other tribes that made their homes along the Columbia and Willamette Rivers

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oregon Senate Approves the Implementation of an Equity Investment Program to Fund Culturally Responsive Services

Senate Bill 1579 will support economic stability, self-sufficiency, wealth building, and economic equity among disadvantaged individuals, families, businesses, and communities in Oregon.

SALEM, Oregon - Today the Oregon Senate approved Senate Bill 1579 on a vote of 17 to 9. This bill will provide additional funding to community organizations who have an intimate knowledge of the lived experiences of and have a founding mission aligned with the culture of communities they are serving.

Increased funding to these culturally responsive services will support community economic stability, increase self-sufficiency and allow for more individuals to build generational wealth, resulting in greater economic equity among disadvantaged individuals, families, businesses, and communities in Oregon.

“As the co-founder and former executive director of a culturally specific community organization, I have seen the great work that these services can do when funded properly,” said Senator Kayse Jama, “I am Chief Sponsor of SB 1579 because I know alongside criminal or systems-based justice, the other necessary component of righting this ship is economic justice. Senate Bill 1579 provides critical funding to culturally responsive services for wealth building opportunities for economically marginalized communities and communities who are most harmed by over-policing and by the criminal justice system.”

Senate Bill 1579 now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

About State Senator Kayse Jama: Senator Jama represents Senate District 24 (East Portland and North Clackamas) and serves as the chair of the Senate Committee On Housing and Development, and the Legislature’s Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) Caucus. He was the first former refugee, Muslim, and Somali-American to serve in the Oregon State Senate. Before his appointment, Sen. Jama was a prominent community organizer and Executive Director of Unite Oregon.

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