

Honorable Senators,

My name is Mike Eidem and I'm here in opposition to HB-2787. I am a US citizen, born & raised in Oregon & a decorated US Army war veteran. My wife is a legal resident of Oregon from Canada.

As a lifetime resident of Oregon I'm deeply concerned about the illegal immigrant situation in our state. We as Oregon citizens, are letting our rights be given away by you, the trusted representatives, we sent to Salem.

The ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION REFORM AND IMMIGRANT RESPONSIBILITY ACT was passed by the Federal government in 1996. I found some interesting information in this Federal Law that takes precedent over the proposed Legislation in HB-2787, and in fact, will put the State Of Oregon in violation of this Federal Law.

Section 505 of this law deals directly with the LIMITATION ON ELIGIBILITY FOR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF ALIENS NOT LAWFULLY PRESENT ON BASIS OF RESIDENCE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS.

Paragraph (a) states and I'm quoting, "an alien who is unlawfully present in the United States, shall not be eligible on the basis of residence within a State for any post-secondary education benefits, unless citizens or legal nationals of the United States are eligible for such a benefit (in no less an amount, duration, and scope) without regard to whether the citizen or legal national is a resident."

What this means is, an illegal alien isn't eligible for any in state tuition benefits unless all US citizens or legal nationals, are eligible for the same benefit, **even if they don't reside in this state.**

If this law passes all out-of-state tuition fees for any US citizen or legal nationals would be illegal per this federal law and subject to a court challenge.

I have 3 questions for you the committee:

1. If our state university system cannot legally charge out-of-state tuition fees to any US citizen or legal national how will that affect their already stretched budgets?
2. What would the financial burden be to the taxpayers of Oregon to subsidize these potential losses?
3. Explain how passing HB-2787, that's clearly in violation of this federal law, teaches these students you are so concerned about, to respect the laws governing our country?

As Senators you all took an oath to support the Constitution and the laws of the United States and the state of Oregon, that I as a veteran, fought to preserve.

In this time of economic uncertainty here in our state, I ask you all to do the right thing for the citizens of Oregon, oppose HB-2787.

Thank-you