

Testimony in Opposition
SB833

I am speaking in opposition to SB833

SB833 is a bad idea that will hurt Oregon economically and financially. We need to protect our citizens and people who are here as legal residents.

In February, almost 180,000 Oregonians were unemployed. More than 120,000 illegal immigrants hold jobs in Oregon. That is a fact established by the Federation for American Immigration Reform. We have heard the argument that many of these are jobs Americans don't want. But over 80 percent of the jobs in food services, construction, building maintenance, and grounds keeping are filled by Americans and legal residents. (data from the Pew Hispanic Center) No doubt, passage of this bill will attract many more thousands of illegal immigrants.

Forty five states in America do not allow illegal immigrants to have a drivers license ... for good reason.

I have been hit in my car by an illegal alien that had no insurance, did not speak English and gave me a false address. Do we want to encourage this problem to grow in the future? And it will if this bill passes. New Mexico, which grants licenses to illegal immigrants, "is home to the nation's second-highest percentage of uninsured drivers, despite having a mandatory liability insurance law.

Illegal immigrants play a significant role in Oregon's economy that is both unrealistic and foolish to ignore; so let's not ignore that role any longer. Oregon's illegal immigrants and their children now pay \$77 million a year in state and local taxes but consume more than \$1,000 million a year in state and local services. That costs Oregon \$13 for every dollar of tax revenue paid in. This is an unacceptable situation which will get worse if access to a driver's license draws more illegal immigrants here.

Our Legislator's responsibility is to look after the well-being of the legal residents of Oregon ... the citizens whom SB833 would harm. This bill can only hurt Oregon and result in a financial drain on our already strained resources.

I urge you to vote no on SB833.

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