

Amber Mawhinney
OSU First-year student
(559)250-5540
amber.mawhinney@gmail.com

Good afternoon Representatives,

My name is Amber Mawhinney and I am a freshman at Oregon State University. When I heard about Senate Bill 833, I bitterly thought back to my experience of getting my drivers license. To earn the privilege of having a drivers license, I had to take a drivers-education course class, pass multiple written tests, be instructed on how to drive by a professional, and finally take a behind the wheel driving test. In addition, I had to provide multiple forms of identification, proof of insurance, and other types of paperwork to DMV officials. It was anything but a walk in the park. But I desperately wanted that privilege and freedom to drive and even more so, I wanted a legal ID as it would allow me to register to vote and exercise my rights as a citizen. And now you legislators plan to give away these privileges of being a United States Citizen to those here illegally? What is next? Letting illegal immigrants vote, because they live here too? Where is the line...?

I think we have crossed it.

It baffles me that, if this law is passed, a person will be able to walk into the DMV, a state-level government building, and openly say, "I am an illegal immigrant, I am breaking the law." And what will happen? They will not be arrested, they will not be reprimanded, and they will not be deported. Instead, they would be given a form of ID so that they may drive their cars to and from their illegal residence and job they hold illegally. The hypocrisy is unbelievable. Multiple crimes are being committed, and you the legislators, want us to turn our cheeks yet again? Oregon just passed into law in-state tuition for illegal immigrants. We give illegal immigrants welfare and food stamps on behalf of their children born here.

I am truly saddened that you legislators have no value for our laws. Being here illegally, is breaking the law. Where is the logic in rewarding an individual who has broken the law? I see this legislation similar to me walking into a DMV building, openly admitting I just stole the car I'm driving but nevertheless, would like to renew my license. And the DMV employees helping me do just that. It just doesn't make sense.

Who pays for the hard working DMV employees? LEGAL citizens of this state and country. Furthermore, who is paying you, representatives? LEGAL citizens of this state and country.

But who is not paying you? The illegal immigrants that you are so defending.

Thank you.