

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE OREGON HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY IN
SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 3525

BY RAMON RAMIREZ, PRESIDENT OF PINEROS Y CAMPESINOS UNIDOS DEL
NOROESTE (NORTHWEST TREEPLANTERS AND FARMWORKERS UNITED)

April 15, 2015

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify today. My name is Ramon Ramirez, I am speaking on behalf of the membership of Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United). PCUN is Oregon's union of farm workers, nursery, and reforestation workers, and Oregon's largest Latino organization. Founded in 1985 by 80 farm workers, PCUN today includes more than 6,500 registered members.

I am here today to strongly support House Bill 3525 [that](#) would strengthen the law regarding people who act as immigration lawyers in the immigrant community.

I have worked on immigration issues for the last 40 years. In that time I have witness many abuses of immigrants by people who act as immigration lawyers by saying they are a Notario.

In many Latin American countires a Notario is a lawyer and has a licence to practice law. In the United States a Notary Public is simply a person who notarizes documents. Over the years their has been many victims of Notario who has charged thousands and thousands dollars for claiming they could regulate a persons immigration status. In some cases, the Notario doesn't know law and submits an application without merits resulting in the deportation of people.

HB 3525 attempts to give the authorities another tool to go after Notario's and stop this practice in the community.

PCUN urges the passage of House Bill 3525