



March 18, 2019

Dear Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of Causa Oregon, I urge support for HB 2932 and HB 3201. Causa is Oregon's Latino immigrant rights organization. Founded in 1995, we work to improve the lives of Latino immigrants and their families in Oregon through advocacy, coalition building, leadership development, and civic engagement.

HB 2932 promotes access to justice in Oregon courts by (a) prohibiting courts from inquiring into a defendant's immigration status or requiring the defendant to disclose immigration status at the time of a plea, or at any other time during criminal proceedings; and (b) ensuring that defendants are informed of the potential immigration consequences of their case and have an opportunity to obtain additional legal advice.

HB 3201 promotes fairness by ensuring that all defendants in Oregon who successfully complete deferred resolution programs will end without a criminal conviction. This bill ensures that immigrant defendants receive the same outcome from deferred resolution programs as U.S. citizens defendants in the same position.

These two bills make our justice system more equitable and safe for all participants. These bills increase participation in court programs and court proceedings by ensuring a person takes responsibility for one's harmful conduct or report crimes, seek protective orders, and show up as witness in court.

These policy changes are crucial for ensuring access to justice for all Oregonians. For these reasons, Causa urges the committee to adopt HB 2932 and HB 3201.

Sincerely,

Andrea Williams
Executive Director, Causa