



April 24, 2019

The Honorable Representative Jennifer Williamson, Chair House Judiciary Committee,  
Members

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2932

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (“AILA”), we thank you for the opportunity to submit the following comments in support of HB 2932.

HB 2932 prohibits criminal courts from inquiring into a defendant’s immigration status or requiring the defendant to disclose his or her immigration status at the time of entering a plea or at any other time during criminal proceedings. It also requires courts to allow a defendant additional time for a plea decision after informing the defendant about possible adverse immigration consequences of a plea.

HB 2932 protects important Due Process rights of noncitizens facing criminal proceedings. Most significantly, HB 2932 would allow noncitizens to be fully informed of potential immigration consequences prior to entering a plea. The immigration consequences of a conviction can be far more severe than the criminal penalty imposed, and include being placed into Removal Proceedings, held in Immigration Detention for extended periods, losing the opportunity to gain legal status, or having legal immigration status taken away. Because noncitizen defendants are differently impacted by the immigration consequence of criminal proceedings, it is in the interest of justice that these defendants be afforded the opportunity to assess the immigration consequence of a plea. HB 2932 also ensures that noncitizen defendants will not be unduly prejudiced through disclosure of their immigration status in criminal court.

For those reasons, we urge you to pass HB 2932. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/Eileen Sterlock  
Chair, AILA Oregon