

Yes, on HB 3230

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chair Noble and Power, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee.

My name is Diana D. and live in Hillsboro.

I'm writing in support of HB 3230, Universal Legal Representation, which would provide immigrant Oregonian's legal support during a difficult and traumatic process. Despite a new president and administration, Oregon's immigrants are still very vulnerable to deportation which is why we need accessible, culturally responsive, and community focused legal services.

Universal Legal Representation expands the Equity Corps pilot program funded by Multnomah County, the City of Portland, and the State of Oregon to create statewide infrastructure for immigration legal defense, such as deportations, and prepare for any major changes in immigration policy. Here are some key facts on Universal Legal Representation:

?The program would create a statewide call center that would provide direct contacts and streamline access for those seeking help.

?Impacted communities would be able to choose their provider.

?Community based organizations that already have deep connections to the community would oversee the program's policy and fiscal decisions and have an active role in coordinating.

Oregon is home to thousands of immigrants and refugees who live in both cities and towns statewide, and are critical to the state's cultural and economic vitality. Immigrant Oregonians work in key Oregon industries, are essential workers, and own small businesses that contribute to the vibrancy of our communities.

As a young and undocumented girl living in a foreign country was tough. When I was only eleven years old and my sister of 10, had the misfortune to be detained by an immigration patrol. I always lived with fear that someday my dreams could be banish by the unfair rights just for being undocumented. One misfortunate day while I was walking down the street with my sister, an immigration patron in Phoenix detained us, took our names and drove us to an immigration detention center. It was a cold and fear experienced; we were incarcerated together with all other women of different ages and with different racial backgrounds. We were just thrown into that huge, cold four walled cell. Surrounded by many sad, disappointed, discouraging and hopeless women faces; women whose dreams were about to be buried. We weren't provided with any kind of rights even with our short age. We weren't granted a phone call to call my mother whom was in desperately worry for my sister and my location. We weren't granted a lawyer or any other kind of Human and Constitutional Rights that this country supposed to have; but since we weren't U. S Citizens these rights were unavailable for us. Hours passed, for me it was the longest day of my life. It was frustrating not knowing what our future will held. Night came and we were finally liberated, this Immigration officer took my sister and me along with other women to a patrol and drove us directly to the US border.

Human Rights were not respected that day and it keeps on happening to thousands of undocumented people. That day it felt like if I was a young criminal whose only crime was wanted to come to a country where we can have a better life.

?All Oregonians should be treated with dignity and respect regardless of where they were born. But Oregonians who are immigrants and refugees, especially immigrant Oregonians who are Black, Indigenous, or people of color, have faced increased immigration enforcement that includes racial profiling, detention, family separation, and potential removal to countries where they have fled violence and persecution.

Oregon has been a great home for me and for many other undocumented families. I believed in this state and I'm greatly thankful for Oregon being a Sanctuary State. I know and believe in my representatives and senators who believe in the values and unity of families. Thank you