

February 1, 2022

House Committee on Human Services  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Williams and Members of the House Committee on Human Services,

I am writing to express the City of Gresham’s support for HB 4122.

The Gresham City Council supports public policy and budget allocations that advance equitable outcomes for Oregonians. This legislation will direct the Department of Human Services to establish a program to award to individuals who are recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status a one-time grant for DACA renewal costs. DACA recipients must renew deferred action status every two years. The renewal fee is often out of reach and difficult for many DACA recipients, and this is particularly true due to the economic impacts and loss of income from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Gresham has been one of the communities most impacted by the pandemic, with some of the highest rates of coronavirus infections in the state.

DACA recipients face multiple barriers, and it is in the interest of the State to these members of our Oregon communities to maintain their legal status. This funding will allow DACA recipients to renew their applications and continue their education and/or employment. The City of Gresham supports the funding to assist individuals in covering their application fees, as well as the funding to cover legal costs associated with the renewals.

During the continued economic and health crisis, we urge your support for this funding so that many in our community can maintain their employment and continue to support our local economy.

We urge your support for HB 4122.

Sincerely,

Brian Monberg  
Government Affairs Manager  
City of Gresham