

Submitter: Elizabeth Ilem

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110
Implementation

Measure: SB1543

My name is Elizabeth Ilem and I live in Troutdale, Oregon. I am a member of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Oregon and serve on the vestry and the Immigrant Welcoming Congregation committee. I am writing in support of SB 1543 which would provide immigrant Oregonians with legal support during deportation proceedings. I have seen first hand the difference that having legal support can make in facing deportation. Our congregation has accompanied several members to court and we also support non-profits who attempt to fill the gap for this need.

We have seen this kind of community based system in action with the Oregon Worker Relief fund model which allowed our communities of color to connect with the organizations they already know and trust to help them in a difficult time. According to the Oregon Center for Public Policy, one in every 10 Oregon children live with a family member without legal status.

Having universal representation would be a significant factor in preserving families and helping them to raise their children.

We must protect the rights of everyone who calls Oregon home and support their ability to thrive. By doing so, we can continue being a place that values families and communities.

Thank you. Elizabeth K. Ilem