

February 8, 2022

SUBJECT: Please vote YES on SB 1543

Dear Chair Prosanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Jim Mauceri, and I live in Beaverton, Oregon.

I am writing in support of SB1543, Universal Legal Representation, which would provide immigrant Oregonians with legal support during deportation proceedings. 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.

Many people in removal proceedings have valid legal claims to remain in the country and continue to contribute to Oregon's communities, but no way to articulate these claims without the assistance of counsel. Universal representation safeguards due process by allowing immigrant Oregonians to access the rights afforded to them under existing law.

Representation by an attorney is the single most determinative factor in the outcome of a deportation proceeding. **Representation by an attorney improves someone's chances of staying with their family by 457 percent.**

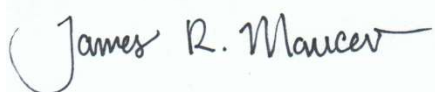
Oregon is home to hundreds of thousands of immigrants and refugees who live in urban and rural areas statewide. They are critical to the state's cultural and economic vitality. Immigrant Oregonians work in key Oregon industries, are essential workers, and own small businesses that contribute to the vibrancy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

We know that the right legal representation can make a big difference in a person's case! A community member without legal representation is 5.5 times more likely to be deported regardless of the merit of their case.

According to the Oregon Center for Public Policy, one in every 10 Oregon children live with a family member without legal status.

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. Please vote yes on SB 1543. It is the right thing to do, and it is right for Oregon.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James R. Mauceri". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Jim Mauceri