

Submitter: Sarah Rohrs

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110
Implementation

Measure: SB1543

SUBJECT: Yes on SB 1543

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

My name is Sarah Rohrs and I live in Salem, Oregon. I am writing in support of SB 1543 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 deportation proceedings have a legal claim to stay in the United States and contribute to Oregon's communities but they are departed due to lack of access to legal counsel. Universal representation safeguards due process by allowing immigrant Oregonians to access the rights afforded to them under existing law, keeping families together and protecting Oregon's collective prosperity.

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. It's time to guarantee access to legal representation for all immigrant Oregonians.

SB 1543 further expands the successful 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.

I urge you to support SB 1543 and provide universal representation to thousands of immigrants and refugees who live in Oregon's urban and rural areas. They are critical to the state's economic and cultural vitality.

