

3/30/2021

Re: Yes, on SB1543

Chair Prosanski, Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Judicial Committee,

I am a community member from Washington County, and I am writing in support of SB1543, Universal Legal Representation, which would provide immigrant Oregonians legal support during a difficult and traumatic process.

Universal Legal Representation centers the experiences of impacted community members that are at risk of deportation and family separation. I unfortunately know many families in my neighborhood who have lost a loved one after being in detention. It is painful to see children suffer and affected by the absence of a parent. The elders also live with sadness on their face knowing that their children may be deported leaving their grandchildren with an uncertain future.

Many people in deportation proceedings have valid claims to stay in the country and to continue contributing to the Oregon community, but they do not have the opportunity due to lack of legal support from an attorney. We know that legal representation in someone's case makes a difference. As Oregonians, we believe in constitutional rights and human rights, which includes the right to be treated fairly and with dignity under the law.

I support SB 1543 because Oregon is home to thousands of immigrants and refugees living in cities and towns. Oregon immigrants work in several key industries, are essential workers, and contribute to the well-being of our state and communities. We believe in a fair legal system where everyone is treated with dignity. That is why I am asking you to support SB 1543.

Thank You,

Community Member in Washington County