

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

My name is Quinn Lampkin and I live in Portland Oregon and/or I am writing on behalf of myself, a small business owner In 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 removal proceedings have valid legal claims to remain in the country and continue to contribute to Oregon's communities, but have no way to articulate these claims without the assistance of counsel. This bill 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 outcome determinative factor in deportation proceedings. Representation by an attorney improves someone's chances of staying with their family by 457 percent.

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 personally believe providing legal counsel to immigrants is a matter of basic principles of justice and democracy in our country. It recognizes that all individuals deserve fair treatment, due process, and the opportunity for rehabilitation and meaningful participation in Oregon society.

Immigration proceedings are the only place in our justice system where people can be denied their liberty and face life-altering consequences without the aid of an attorney to help them navigate the complex legal system. The practice is not only inhumane and contrary to American values; it is detrimental to local economies.

Oregon is home to more than 400,000 immigrants and refugees who live in urban and rural areas throughout the state. Many are essential workers in key Oregon industries, own small businesses and contribute to the vibrancy of our communities.

Universal Legal representation upholds trust in the legal process and only helps to strengthen the legitimacy of our institutions. It recognizes that all individuals deserve fair treatment, gives those needing it an opportunity to have their voices heard, and becoming more actively engaged in their own fate, instead of being silenced.

In closing I hope you support SB 1543 and thank you for your time.

Quinn Lampkin