

FAIRSHOT FOR ALL

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Fair Shot for All Coalition

Re: Testimony in support of SB 627, Universal Legal Representation

January 26, 2023

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Senators Gelser Blouin, Linthicum, and Manning,

The Fair Shot For All Coalition strongly supports Universal Legal Representation (SB 627).

Everyone deserves adequate legal representation. Yet Oregonians with a lawful right to remain in the United States have historically been routinely deported and separated from their families simply because they can't afford an attorney.

The Fair Shot Coalition prioritized and supported the passage of SB 1543 in the 2021-2022 biennium. The funding allocated through SB 1543 in 2022 has been critical in building an effective statewide Universal Representation system. When new immigrant Oregonians have arrived to our state, Universal Representation has been able to respond to help them navigate the complex immigration system, services that have been critical to folks fleeing violence, persecution and extreme poverty.

With continued funding Universal Representation will defend Oregonians from deportation and protect our collective prosperity. We urge your YES vote on SB 627.

Fair Shot for All is an economic justice coalition of grassroots organizations and labor unions working together to build power with our communities, to create opportunities for all working families to thrive, and to dismantle historic and systemic economic inequities for Oregonians who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color (BIPOC); women; immigrants; and/or LGBTQ+. Fair Shot's work centers racial and gender equity that seeks to address inequalities through organizing and concrete policy change. For more information visit FairShotOregon.org