



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DATE: February 22, 2023

TO: Chair Ruiz and Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

FROM: Kimberly McCullough, Legislative Director
Oregon Department of Justice

SUBJECT: HB 2957 Financial Assistance for DACA Renewals

This testimony is written in support of HB 2957.

There are currently over 11,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in Oregon. These Oregonians were brought here as children and have made Oregon their home. They are our communities' teachers, front line medical workers, business owners, students, friends, and neighbors.

To stay and work in the United States, Dreamers must apply and renew for their DACA documentation every two years. The costs attached to these renewal procedures are significant and can further burden an already-challenging process. The application fee alone is \$495 and is often coupled with legal expenses, which are necessary to access support to properly file this DACA documentation.

HB 2957 will allow community-based organizations to provide financial assistance for DACA renewal and legal fees. Through funds provided by the Department of Human Services, it will ensure that there is assistance available to cover the cost of an individual's \$495 renewal fee, as well as up to \$200 of their legal fees. By alleviating DACA renewals' financial burdens, this bill is an important step towards reducing the challenges in the immigration process that many people must face.

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