



Date: February 5, 2024

To: House Committee on Early Childhood & Human Services  
From: Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural  
Re: HB 4159 Humanitarian Investment Act

Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Nguyen, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 4159 Humanitarian Investment Act. My name is Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural. Centro Cultural stands in solidarity with the many community organizations supporting the Asylum/Refugee/Immigrant community.

Centro Cultural is the oldest and longest-serving Latino culturally-specific organization in Oregon. Centro was founded 50 years ago by 14 migrant families who believed in creating a vibrant and cohesive society, shared, valued, and open for community members from different ethnicities and backgrounds. Since then, Centro has served as a safe place for our local Latino community, low-income migrant farmworkers, immigrant refugee communities, and all who come to our doors. Our mission is to be a home for Latino cultures, serving the needs of our diverse community by promoting personal growth and empowerment. To create lasting change for families of color and low-income individuals, stimulate systems change, and work with key stakeholders to reduce barriers and provide essential resources and services for the families we serve. Since our founders decided to begin this journey in 1972, Centro has continued to grow to ensure our community members thrive, working with regional, state, county, and city-wide agencies to advocate for more resources and equitable systems change to support communities of color. Centro's roster of programs seeks to disrupt systemic oppression and racism while converting our clients into agents of change.

HB 4159 Humanitarian Investment Act is a bill that will support nonprofit agencies in continuing to help the asylum/Refugees/immigrants arriving in the State of Oregon. This bill will allow a holistic approach to help these families. Your support of HB4159 will enable organizations like Centro to continue working with these families and deploy the much-needed services these community members need to thrive in Oregon.

Please pass HB 4159.

Sincerely,

Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural  
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