



American Friends Service Committee

February 6, 2024

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

My name is Alonso Oliveros and I live in Polk County. My parents were originally from San Luis Potosi, Mexico and I am writing in support of House Bill 4085, Pathway to Citizenship, which would assist many immigrants to seek immigration legal services to obtain or change a lawful permanent status.

Pathways to lawful permanent status are expensive and sometimes quite difficult for individuals who are not familiar with immigration law. This process can be overwhelming, leaving many families in a position where they don't even know where to start unless they are afforded legal representation. Application fees for these programs alone can also be a barrier for those seeking citizenship.

House Bill 4085 directs Oregon's Department of Human Services (ODHS) to provide grants, based on income level, that cover the legal fees that undocumented Oregonians may incur as they navigate the process of applying for permanent protection.

As a member of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), a Quaker organization that works for a world where all people have the power to determine where they live and the opportunity to thrive, we firmly believe in the values of respect and dignity for those who have sacrificed and left behind loved ones to thrive and prosper for a better life.

AFSC fully supports HB 4085.

For these reasons, I urge you to support HB 4085 to ensure access to immigration legal services for Oregonians.

Thank you,

Alonso Oliveros & Pedro Sosa

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