

02/05/2024

SUBJECT: Yes to HB 4085, Fund Pathways to Citizenship

Yes on HB 4085

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

My name is Maru Mora Villalpando and I am the founder of La Resistencia, a community led group fighting to end all detentions and deportations in the NW. I am speaking 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. HB 4085 is important for our work because of the challenges we see every day for Oregonians that are detained in the NWDC in Tacoma, many due to the fact of lacking legal representation services and costly USCIS filing fees.

HB 4085 would protect many Oregonians from being detained in the first place, by allowing them a higher chance of gaining or changing immigration status. For low-income households with children, seniors, people with disabilities, and just the fact of being undocumented make their chances of immigration relief minimal if they don't have legal representation and services for one of the most cumbersome civil processes in the country.

Our fight is to make sure no one is detained in our region, Oregonians detained at the private facility in WA have joined for years hunger strikes to bring light to the inhumane conditions they live because of profits being a priority in the immigration enforcement system, profits, not people. This bill will spare many from having to face the detention system, and will allow for their families to remain together, at home, in Oregon.

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

Sincerely/Thank you,

Maru Mora Villalpando