

02/01/2024

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 Pyae S Aung, I am originally from Burma and I live in Multnomah County. 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 to me because I myself am struggling to pay my family's immigration attorney and filing USCIS fees.

HB 4085 holds a special significance for me as it addresses the challenges I have encountered while striving to meet my family's attorney's fees. Having embarked on the emotional journey of petitioning my wife and son, who I haven't seen since my son was a mere three months old, has become a financial burden and a substantial obstacle. Now, with my son at the age of 11, the drastically increase in fees has incurred throughout this prolonged separation have taken a toll on my resources. HB 4085's potential impact on alleviating such financial strains not only resonates with my personal struggles but also provides hope for countless others navigating the complex immigration process, reaffirming the importance of family reunification.

HB 4085 would protect many Oregonians from the financial burden of attorney fees and possible USCIS fees, a crucial relief for those currently unemployed, with low household income, or fleeing life-threatening situations. For these reasons, I urge you to support HB 4085 to ensure access to immigration legal services for all.

Sincerely,

Pyae S Aung