



Date: February 6, 2024

To: House Committee on Early Childhood & Human Services
From: Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural
Re: HB 4085, Fund Pathways to Citizenship

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

My name is Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 4085, Fund Pathways to Citizenship.

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 that is 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.

House Bill 4085, Pathway to Citizenship, would assist many Immigrants seeking immigration legal services to obtain or change a lawful permanent status. HB 4085 is important because of the challenges immigrants face in struggling to pay immigration attorney and USCIS filing fees. HB 4085 would also protect many Oregonians and low-income households with children and Seniors for these reasons, we urge you to support HB 4085 to ensure access to immigration legal services.

Please pass HB 4085.

Sincerely,

Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural
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centrocultural.org