

Submitter: Pamela Ryan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB703

Chair Prozanski Vice-Chair Thatcher and members of the committee

My Name is Pamela Ryan. I am retired from Nike and a large local non-profit and I live in the Portland area. I speak out and I act out in support of our community members who don't have an opportunity to vote and hold office, but who contribute to our community life in every other way.

I want to express my support for SB 703/HB 2788, Pathways to Protection and Citizenship. SB 703 which allocates money to the Department of Human Services to award grants to nonprofit legal service providers that cover the cost of clients legal services. This is a bill that will save and strengthen families, improve outcomes in ODHS programs, bolster our workforce, and strengthen the general fund by helping immigrants transition from state services like Healthier Oregon to OHP.

Up to 1/3 of Oregonians without an immigration status are actually eligible under federal law for an immigration status. That's over 25,000 Oregonians who, but for the high cost of legal services, are living in fear, out of the employment mainstream, and unable to support their families. Immigrant and refugee communities make up more than 13% of our state's workforce, yet legal costs prevent many Oregonians from obtaining a more secure immigration status. I count many of them as friends and co-workers.

Thank you for your time and for standing with all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Pamela Ryan

Unincorporated Washington County