

Submitter: Gaile Baack

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 Gaile Baack and I live in SW Portland.

I urge you to support SB 703/HB2788, Pathways to Protection and Citizenship. As a member of St. Luke Lutheran Church, I have worked with resettling refugees for fifty years, as they obtained green cards, then citizenship and became working, voting full members of our Oregon society. This bill would award grants to nonprofit legal services to cover the cost of legal services for those who need it.

As many as 25,000 Oregonians are eligible under federal law for immigration status. Most cannot afford legal services and so live in fear of deportation. They are important to our workforce and our economy.

Thank you for standing up for all Oregonians, including those who cannot speak up for themselves.

Sincerely,

V. Gaile Baack