

Submitter:

N Mullane

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB703

RE: SB703

I strongly support SB703. We must fund immigration services for non-citizens. This bill will provide grants to non-profits legal service providers and help people update their immigration status. Many people don't have the financial means or the legal representation to do this on their own. They may not even know they can update their immigration status.

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.

As citizens of Oregon, it is our responsibility to ensure that fair and accessible representation is available to the people who live in our state, regardless of their income.

Thank you.