



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.*

March 19, 2025

To: [Senator Floyd Prozanski](#), Chair, and Members of the [Senate Committee On Judiciary](#)

Re: [SB 703](#) – DHS grants to nonprofit service providers to assist immigration status – **Support**

The LWVOR strongly supports SB 703, to direct grants from the Oregon Department of Human Services to nonprofit service providers for help with naturalization and citizenship processes. We support funding and reaching these Pathways to Protection and Citizenship timeline goals. Legal counsel can make the difference between deportation, denial of permanent residency, or a green card. Our national immigration position urges: **Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons, and, in transition to a reformed system, support provisions for individuals already living in the country without legal permission to earn legal status.**

Without representation, only one in ten will be able to negotiate the complex and expensive legal process. Paraphrasing from the bill, [DHS] shall prioritize those who may become eligible for federal public assistance if their immigration status were to change. Immigration legal services are imperative, especially now that possibly helpful programs are uncertain as federal funding is being revoked.

OREGON IS A SANCTUARY STATE. Immigrants are a vital part of our economy. Immigrants pay taxes, including toward this proposed program. A full 21% of Oregon kids are in immigrant families. With SB 703, more of our neighbor’s families can potentially avoid deportation, maintain their current status, and get permanent resident status, to live with stability and security of permanent protections

We urge to **protect personal privacy to prevent known harm** and support this in the bill:  
*In referring an individual to the grant program ... of this 2025 Act, the DHS may not inquire into or collect information about an individual’s immigration or citizenship status or country of birth.*

Oregon’s essential services are currently under-employed, across the spectrum. Immigrants provide support our economy depends on, paying taxes and reinvesting back into Oregon. But many are afraid of deportation despite having grounds for legal status, because they can’t afford legal services. They could progress toward citizenship, when we would be very happy to help them become informed voters!

We strongly urge your support for SB 703 and to fully fund the \$6M for grants as this bill proceeds.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

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