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**STATE SENATOR**  
**District 17**



**OREGON STATE SENATE**

March 19th, 2025  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Hearing Room E

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to hear this important bill. For the record, my name is Lisa Reynolds, and it is the honor of my life to serve as State Senator for Oregon's 17th Senate District.

SB 703 is a unique opportunity to support our neighbors and community members as they achieve citizenship or other status improvements. This bill follows up on work in the 2023 and 2024 sessions, where similar bills passed out of policy committees with unanimous bipartisan votes. This bill gives me enormous hope at a time when immigration policy has become so divisive – this is a policy that has been and continues to be nonpartisan, and focused on solutions. This bill is supported by diverse groups such as the American Immigration Council, the Oregon Farm Bureau, SEIU, the American Friends Service Committee, Our Children Oregon, and many others.

In my work as a pediatrician, I talk a lot about upstream solutions. This bill is the upstream solution to immigration legal assistance. Many of our neighbors in Oregon meet the legal requirements to become citizens or permanent residents. They have done everything right, and are upstanding members of society. Some have even helped our armed forces in Afghanistan, or are fleeing legitimate violence and persecution in other countries. Again, these members of our community have done everything right, and meet the requirements to become citizens or to upgrade their immigration status. The only standing in their way of doing so is the red tape and paperwork from the federal government.

This bill helps our immigrant neighbors to improve their status by providing crucial legal assistance before their case becomes critical. This is the right thing to do, and the financially responsible thing to do. Affirmative legal assistance costs less per case than emergent legal assistance, and moving our neighbors' status to citizenship saves state resources spent on healthcare and other support out of the state general fund.

You will hear more about this bill from people who can speak to it much more eloquently than I. But I will say this: our immigrant neighbors need all the support they can get. It is incumbent upon us to step up in this moment and provide crucial assistance. This is an opportunity to do so in a nonpartisan way that brings folks together, saves state funds, and helps our immigrant neighbors follow a legal pathway to improving their status.

I urge your support for SB 703.

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