

March 20, 2025

Testimony in Support of SB 703/HB 2788

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

My name is Kody C, and I am an arborist throughout the state of Oregon. I live in Portland, Oregon, in Washington County.

I strongly support SB 703/HB 2788, Pathways to Protection and Citizenship, because I have seen firsthand how the high cost of legal fees prevents hardworking people from obtaining the security they are already eligible for under federal law.

Oregon's immigrant and refugee communities make up more than 13% of our workforce, yet many remain stuck in an unstable status due to financial barriers. This does not just impact individuals—it affects entire families, local businesses, and the economy as a whole. A strong workforce benefits all of us, and this bill would provide the necessary legal assistance to ensure that more people can fully contribute to our communities without fear.

I personally know families who are trying to do everything right—working hard, raising kids, and building a future—but are held back because they can't afford the legal process to secure their status. That's not just a burden on them—it's a loss for Oregon. This bill would remove unnecessary obstacles and allow more Oregonians to thrive.

I urge you to support SB 703/HB 2788 and help provide a fair and stable future for all who call Oregon home.

Sincerely,  
Kody C  
Arborist  
Portland, OR