

Submitter:

Sediqa Amiri

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB703

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 703

Good afternoon, Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and esteemed members of the committee,

My name is Sediqa Amiri, and I serve as a Case Manager and Legal Services assistant for the Afghan community at Salem For Refugees. I am honored to testify in support of Senate Bill 703, which will help ensure that refugees and immigrants have access to critical legal services that can change the trajectory of their lives.

In my role, I have worked directly with Afghan families to find the resources to navigate the complex U.S. immigration system. Many of them arrive with hope but face overwhelming challenges and uncertainty about their legal status, difficulty reuniting with loved ones, and barriers to securing stable employment and housing. Through Salem For Refugees, I connect individuals with legal consultations, Asylum applications, family reunification petitions, work authorization documents, and other essential immigration processes. These services provide a foundation for stability, security, and opportunity.

I have seen firsthand how access to legal services empowers refugees to rebuild their lives. When families receive timely legal guidance, they can focus on finding employment, securing housing, and integrating into their new communities without the constant fear of legal limbo. By passing Senate Bill 703, we will ensure that these vital services remain accessible, allowing more refugees to find their way and thrive. This bill is not just about policy, it is about people. It is about the families who dream of safety, the parents who want a better future for their children, and the communities that grow stronger when newcomers are given the tools to succeed. I urge you to support Senate Bill 703 so that we can continue to provide the legal services that make Oregon a welcoming and inclusive home for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sediqa Amiri

Case Manager

Salem For Refugees