

Submitter: Juan Pedro Moreno Olmeda
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB703

Dear Members of the committee,

My name is Juan Pedro Moreno Olmeda, and I am a lifelong resident of Hillsboro, Oregon. I am writing to express my strong support for SB703, which will greatly benefit noncitizens in our state who seek to change their immigration status or obtain lawful permanent resident status. This would be a dream come true for many families across the state of Oregon.

For more context, SB703 will establish a grant program funded by the state to help offset the costs of immigration-related legal services and filing fees. Which is one of the many factors preventing families from beginning this process in the first place. Many hardworking, tax-paying noncitizens face significant barriers when attempting to understand and navigate the expensive and complicated immigration process. This bill's provision to offer full cost coverage for individuals at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines, as well as partial coverage for those with higher incomes, ensures targeted assistance for our immigrant and refugee communities most in need.

For many people like me, we spend our whole lives thinking about how we could help our hardworking and tax paying relatives retire, even if they will never receive any benefits from social security that they have been paying for. The opportunity to “do things the right way”, is one that many of us would jump on! We need to have more solutions like SB703, and more in order to give people the opportunity to “right” their “wrongs”. Especially our immigrant community. We are hardworking taxpayers too, and deserve to have avenues to becoming US citizens and to make our dreams come true.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse SB703 and urge you to vote in favor of its passage. By supporting this bill, you will be creating a tangible difference in the lives of countless noncitizens in Oregon, including my family, friends, and neighbors. Thank you for your consideration and dedication to the well-being of all residents in our state.

Sincerely,

Juan Pedro Moreno Olmeda

Hillsboro, Oregon