



Oregon Women's Rights Coalition

SB 703- Pathways to Protection and Citizenship Act-Support

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and members of the committee.

The US Immigration system is very complicated. For those living in Oregon the ability to change status takes time and sophistication that immigrants may not have.

Oregonians identified to receive immigration legal assistance include:

- Dreamers (DACA)
- Those who served as Interpreters for US Armed Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Those under federal law to change status or obtain lawful permanent resident status.
- Citizenship applicants This bill is intended to provide funding to obtain legal assistance to change or maintain their immigration status.
- For instance, when updating DACA status payments are needed for each form being submitted. However, the payments cannot be combined, or the filing will be rejected even if the payments are made to the same entity. Not only must they not be combined but each payment made needs to be made with the same form of payment: all checks or all credit cards.

It is this type of complexity with which our neighbors need help.

With this legislation, our new neighbors will be able to provide for themselves and their families with more certainty.

In Salem, Salem for Refugees welcomed their 1000th refugee this year. In 2024 refugees from 17 countries became our new neighbors.

And while many need help with their immigration status, for those who have work permits, they are working and enriching our economy.

Please support this legislation so our new neighbors have more certainty.

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