

Submitter: Katelyn Gress

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB703

Honorable Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

As a sanctuary state, Oregon upholds the safety, dignity, and human rights of all its residents. I am writing in support of SB 703, which provides grants to nonprofits to assist immigrants in improving their legal status.

Many immigrants who wish to improve their status are hindered by the prohibitive costs of application fees and legal services. The complexity of immigration law makes the process challenging, and the costs—over \$1,000 plus legal fees—are often out of reach. This bill would help mitigate those costs, and some of the expense will be offset by enabling immigrants to access federal programs.

Supporting this initiative would strengthen Oregon's workforce by helping immigrant families, who have contributed to the state for years through work, taxes, and raising families. Proper documentation will provide access to better work, healthcare, and stability, benefiting the entire state through a more secure and reliable workforce.

We must not leave these hardworking individuals behind. They deserve our respect and support as fellow Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Katie Gress