

Submitter: Yulia Brockdorf
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB703

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

My name is Yulia Brockdorf. I am the president of DAWN Inc., an organization dedicated to supporting Ukraine through medical aid, mental health initiatives, and cultural preservation. I am also the owner of a clinical practice providing mental health and nutrition services. I strongly support SB 703 to ensure Ukrainians in Oregon and others have access to crucial immigration legal support. We recently learned that federal policy changes will revoke the parole status of hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians. In this uncertain and distressing time, access to immigration legal services is essential. SB 703 would help cover the high costs of legal services necessary to prevent deportation and provide stability for affected individuals and families.

Oregon's other immigrant and refugee communities would also benefit greatly from this bill. Up to one-third of Oregonians without an immigration status are actually eligible under federal law, yet the high cost of legal services keeps over 25,000 people in limbo—living in fear, out of the employment mainstream, and unable to support their families. Immigrant and refugee communities make up more than 13% of our state's workforce, yet many remain unable to obtain a more secure immigration status due to legal costs.

Ensuring access to legal support will help strengthen our communities and allow more Oregonians to fully contribute to the state's social and economic well-being. I strongly urge you to support SB 703.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yulia Brockdorf