

Submitter: Michael Mintz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB703

Many of our neighbors in Oregon meet the legal requirements to become citizens or permanent residents. They have done everything right, and are upstanding members of society. Some have even helped our armed forces in Afghanistan, or are fleeing legitimate violence and persecution in other countries. The only thing standing in their way to become citizens or to upgrade their immigration status is the red tape and paperwork from the federal government, and the cruel and illegal deportations being waged by the Trump administration.

This bill helps our immigrant neighbors to improve their status by providing crucial legal assistance before their case becomes critical. This is the right thing to do, and the financially responsible thing to do. Affirmative legal assistance costs less per case than emergent legal assistance, and moving our neighbors' status to citizenship saves state resources spent on healthcare and other support out of the state general fund.

Thank you for supporting our collective efforts to protect our families, friends, and neighbors from the cruel and illegal deportations being waged by the Trump administration.

Our immigrant neighbors need all the support they can get. It is incumbent upon us to step up in this moment and provide crucial assistance. This is an opportunity to do so in a nonpartisan way that brings folks together, saves state funds, and helps our immigrant neighbors follow a legal pathway to improving their status.

I urge your support for SB 703.