

Submitter: Jorge Cisneros
On Behalf Of: Jorge cisneros
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

!

Name: Jorge Cisneros
Email: ncastaneda@emoregon.org
Organization or City of Residence: Hillsboro

Testimony is on behalf of:

Measure SB 703: Directs the Department of Human Services to provide grants to nonprofit service providers to assist individuals who are noncitizens to change their immigration status or obtain lawful permanent resident status.

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Position: Support

Testimony:

March 20, 2025

Yes to SB 703/HB 2788, Pathways to Protection and Citizenship

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee, My Name is Jorge Cisneros and I am a constituent from Hillsboro, Oregon. I enthusiastically support SB 703/HB 2788, Pathways to Protection and Citizenship. This bill came before you as HB 4085 in 2024, and passed this Committee unanimously. HB 2788/ SB 703 is a bill that will save and strengthen families, improve outcomes in other DHS programs, bolster our workforce and strengthen Oregon's general fund.

Immigrants in Oregon contribute to the economy as it is. We can't keep them striving because of a few hundred dollars they live in fear, out of the employment mainstream, yet somehow are still able to provide and support their families.

Immigrants are a very important part of our economy. Why not given them an opportunity to be part of the great story of Democracy. The American artist Ben Shahn once proclaimed the most appealing idea that the world has yet to know, Alex de Tocqueville called it the principle of civic participation. Gunnar Myrdal encapsulated the idea in the phrase the American Creed which he judges to be the most explicitly articulated system of general ideas of any country in the west.

Up to 1/3 of Oregonians without an immigration status are actually eligible under federal law for an immigration status. That is thousands of Oregonians who, but for a few hundred dollars, are living in fear, out of the mainstream employment, unable to support their families.

Immigrant and refugee communities make up more than 13% of our state's workforce, yet legal costs prevent many Oregonians from obtaining a more secure immigration status. This bill's one-time support of Oregonians to offset these legal costs will stabilize our workforce.

Please vote yes on SB 703/HB 2788, Pathways to Protection and Citizenship. Thank

you for your time and for standing with all Oregonians.
Sincerely,
Jorge Cisneros