

Submitter: Heather Dorfman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006
Co-Chair Lieber, Co-Chair Sanchez, and Members of the Committee,

I urge your strong support of the Immigrant Justice Package. We need to fund the programs in this package which protect our neighbors, strengthen our workforce, and create a state where everyone can thrive.

My name is Heather and I live in Portland. In my social work and community involvement, I have worked with many immigrant families.

Across Oregon, immigrant families face daily hardships. They often go hungry because they're excluded from food assistance, while farmworkers risk their lives during climate disasters to provide for their children. Indigenous language speakers are unable to access life-saving medical care, and children often face deportation proceedings without legal help.

The 2025 Fair Shot Coalition's Immigrant Justice Package offers the following five proven, cost-effective solutions and investments:

- Universal Representation;
- the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund;
- the Home Fund;
- Indigenous Language Justice and
- Food for All Oregonians.

Immigrant Justice priorities ensure immigrant communities have access to legal representation, disaster relief, housing stability, language support, and food assistance—basic rights that help families stay together and succeed.

These barriers don't just harm immigrant families; they also weaken Oregon's economy, destabilize communities, and strain critical systems. While Oregon has long recognized that we're stronger together, safety net programs often exclude immigrant Oregonians, and critical services for immigrant families are underfunded or leave dangerous gaps in coverage. The 2025 Immigrant Justice Package offers proven, cost-effective solutions by ensuring access to legal representation, disaster relief, housing stability, language support, and food assistance—basic rights that help families stay together and succeed. These community-led programs support farmworkers, caregivers, and others who are the backbone of Oregon's economy. By addressing crises like hunger, eviction, and deportation, the package ensures stability and dignity for all. Legislators have a crucial opportunity to act now to protect

Oregon's families and workers.

By funding the 2025 Immigrant Justice Package, we can build a stronger, more resilient state for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Heather Dorfman
Portland, OR