

Dear Co-Chairs, Vice Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Committee,

My name is Tabitha Joaquin, and I live in Eugene, Oregon. I am writing to express my strong support for Universal Representation. This initiative is crucial in ensuring due process for immigrants facing deportation or seeking to adjust their status.

Providing legal representation is not just a matter of fairness; it is a fundamental human right. Many immigrants navigate a complex legal system without the knowledge or resources necessary to advocate for themselves. Universal Representation would bridge this gap, ensuring that all individuals have access to the legal support they need to navigate their circumstances.

In its first two years, this successful program has already made a significant impact, assisting 10,000 Oregonians in maintaining stability for their families and employers. These individuals contribute to our communities and economy, and it is essential that they are afforded the opportunity to secure their legal status without fear of deportation.

By investing in Universal Representation, we affirm our commitment to justice and equality for all residents of Oregon, regardless of their immigration status. I urge you to support this vital initiative, which not only protects individual rights but also strengthens our communities as a whole.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Tabitha Joaquin,
(Eugene, Lane County)