



## OREGON LEGISLATIVE BIPOC CAUCUS

*February 18, 2026*

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Chotzen, Vice-Chair Wallan, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

**We, the undersigned members of the Oregon Legislature’s BIPOC Caucus, stand together in strong support of Universal Representation and the Children’s Economic Stability Fund.**

In the past year, immigration arrests surged drastically as ICE uses violent and unlawful tactics to systematically target Oregonians of color – regardless of citizenship or immigration status – and every day, we are hearing devastating accounts from families torn apart by ICE. The widespread harm inflicted upon immigrant, refugee, and BIPOC communities is clear even though current funding for Universal Representation is not enough to meet the scale of immigration enforcement we are seeing today.

For the families impacted, the aftermath is drastic and immediate — especially for children at risk of being unattended after ICE takes their parent or caregiver away. As Oregonians already struggle to make ends meet, children in immigrant families are facing the added burden of surviving without their loved ones, dealing with not only the emotional toll, but also the significant loss of income in affording a roof over their heads, food on the table, or heat to stay warm in the winter.

Universal Representation and the Children’s Economic Stability Fund respond to this humanitarian crisis with compassion. It reinvests in Universal Representation to meet the moment and allocates resources to help stabilize households in the aftermath of a deportation or detention, ensuring the children of those detained or deported are provided the resources they need to stay fed, housed, and secure during one of the most destabilizing moments of their lives.

The BIPOC Caucus stands in support of Universal Representation and the Children’s Economic Stability Fund because it reflects the very core of our policy agenda: upholding dignity, due process, and safety for every Oregonian, and making clear that Oregon will not turn its back on the communities that make our state strong. The power of legal representation to mitigate the heart of this crisis – deportation itself – undisputable. And the inadequacy of current funding for Universal Representation, given the Trump Administration’s unprecedented escalation, is obvious.

**We strongly urge your support of the Universal Representation and the Children’s Economic Stability Fund.**

Sincerely,

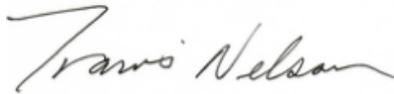
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