



A STRONG VOICE FOR OREGON'S WORKERS

February 12, 2025

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

The Oregon AFL-CIO represents over 300,000 workers across the state in every sector of Oregon's economy and is a voice for all workers in the legislative process. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 4117 to invest in the Universal Representation program.

It should go without saying that Oregon immigrants are also Oregon workers. In fact, 1 in 8 workers in Oregon is an immigrant¹ -- many of whom worked around-the-clock during COVID-19 to keep food on our tables, to care for our loved ones, and to keep our economy running. Without immigrants, Oregon's economy simply would not work and their families fundamentally make our communities more vibrant.

Yet, immigrant communities have been targeted by violent, lawless ICE sweeps resulting in community-wide fear and devastating family separations. HB 4117 helps make sure that immigrant Oregonians get due process and helps keep families together by investing in the Universal Representation program which has already supported over 20,000 immigrant Oregonians. Demand has surged 4,000% since last year. It also invests in the

This policy is part of the immigrant justice package and fundamentally about living our values as a state where no one should have to live in fear simply because of the color of their skin, where they were born, or what language they speak. However, we know that for far too many Oregonians, that constant fear is the reality of the moment we are living in and having negative consequences on people's day-to-day lives.

And that's why we're asking Legislators to use every tool in your toolbox to quell that fear as much as possible: HB 4117 brings one tangible solution to move the dial to address parts of this culture of fear in Oregon.

¹ <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/immigrants-oregon>