

April 2, 2019

Honorable House Judiciary Committee Members:

As a retired peace officer and former crime victim, I am opposed to House Bill 2932.

This bill would “PROHIBIT COURTS FROM INQUIRING INTO A DEFENDANT’S IMMIGRATION STATUS AT ANY POINT DURING CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS”.

Illegally entering the country is a federal crime under Sections 1325 & 1326 of Title 8 of the US Code. This bill would reward defendants appearing in court for committing additional crimes while in the State of Oregon by shielding them from any consequences of their original illegal act, including potential repatriation to their home country.

This bill also sets a dangerous precedent by allowing politicians - not judges - to determine what factors the court may consider during criminal proceedings. What other relevant information could the legislature potentially decide that the courts must ignore to aid foreign defendants? False use of a social security number? Driving without a license? Sex offender registration status?

Finally, HB 2932 would grant extra time for foreign nationals to consider their pleas that is not afforded to citizens accused of the same crime. That is the antithesis of equal application of the law!

This bill prioritizes foreign criminal defendants above the law-abiding immigrants and citizens of Oregon. Every year that this legislature grants criminals more rights and victims less rights, you create more victims. And we learn that our lives don't matter. That our families don't matter. And that is shameful!

Members of the committee, I urge you to uphold your sworn duty to the citizens of this state and vote NO on HB 2932.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lesley Roehr
Wilsonville, Oregon