

RE: SB 856

Dear Chair Riley, Vice-Chair Girod and Committee members:

I oppose SB 856, Establishing Oregon Office of New Americans in Governor's office.

This is just another unnecessary and harmful expansion of government, and aimed to give more benefits to "immigrants" without regard to their legal status. There is a very long list of benefits included in the bill, but I saw nothing in the bill limiting these extensive benefits to those legally present here.

Even if the bill included limitation to legal immigrants, we already have an abundance of social services available to them, I'd say a super-abundance. Immigrants are supposed to be self-reliant, not expecting or needing such help as outlined here.

There are a host of other good reasons why this bill should be voted down, too many to go into detail here. You must be aware of the waves of thousands of immigrants now entering the country at will because U.S. immigration enforcement is overwhelmed. SB 856 is totally out of place on the agenda of the Oregon Legislature now. Please vote NO on SB 856.

Elizabeth Van Staaveren, McMinnville