

ACLU of Oregon¹ Urges a Yes Vote on HB 2932 Equal Notice Right

HB 2932 promotes fairness, safety, and access to justice in Oregon courts.

When community members fear that appearing in court may result in exposure to immigration enforcement, their participation in court proceedings and interactions with local government is deterred. Such barriers make Oregonians afraid to report crimes, seek protective orders, show up as witnesses in court, or to take responsibility for one's harmful conduct. A nationwide survey conducted by the ACLU found that fear of immigration consequences is severely deterring access to courthouses, creating serious consequences for survivors of violent crime, domestic violence, child abuse, and trafficking investigations.

HB 2932 makes our justice system more equitable and safe for all participants by prohibiting the court from unnecessarily putting a defendant's immigration status on the record, which is rarely relevant to criminal proceedings.

HB 2932 also helps ensure Oregon meets its constitutional obligations under the Sixth Amendment of the Constitution. In *Padilla v. Kentucky*, the Supreme Court confirmed defendants have a right to advice from counsel about potential immigration consequences of criminal charges and convictions and failure to provide such advice constitutes ineffective assistance of counsel, violating the Sixth Amendment.

HB 2932 ensures that judges play a role in informing defendants about the fact that there may be potential immigration consequences of a plea agreement or conviction, and gives defendants an opportunity to obtain additional legal advice before proceeding with a potentially life-altering decision.

The ACLU of Oregon urges you to support HB 2932.

¹ The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preservation and enhancement of civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 45,000 members and supporters statewide.