

Good afternoon Chair and Member of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Aracely and I live in Clackamas County. I am a volunteer at the Oregon Food Bank. I am addressing you today because for me your support for HB 3230 Universal Representation is very important.

For me is important that Universal representation be available for people that are experiencing challenges getting access to legal representation services that are safe and reliable. It is important that people get access to this services without facing the risk of inappropriate representation. We are all working towards long term solutions.

To count with legal representation supports our mental health and personal finances to cover basic needs so we can continue supporting our community in a dignified manner. I would also feel comfortable with myself and experience a sense of safety. Because I could have legal services from a professional that knows the law system of this country and is practicing the law with integrity and with transparency.

HB 3230 offers solutions for our communities because emphasizes the role of community based organizations through the governance structure, capacity grants, and coordination. Centers impacted communities by creating a client-choice option so that the client can choose their merits defense provider. Thank you so much for your support with HB 3230.