



**Testimony in Support of HB 3230  
Oregon AFSCME Council 75  
March 30, 2021**

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chairs Noble and Power, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

**Oregon AFSCME Council 75 strongly supports HB 3230 to ensure that undocumented Oregonians have access to legal representation during deportation proceedings.** Despite the new administration and president, our undocumented community members are still being hunted by

Regardless of documentation status, immigrant families are a part of our communities, families and workplaces. Many people in removal proceedings have valid legal claims to remain in their communities and in our country. Without the assistance of counsel, many of these Oregonians have no way to advocate for themselves, their families and their communities. Universal representation would safeguard due process by granting undocumented Oregonians access to their rights afforded to them under existing law.

**Representation by an attorney is the most powerful determinative factor in deportation hearings. Access to an attorney improves the chances of staying within their communities by 457 percent.**

All Oregonians are deserving of being treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their documentation status. In addition to the great challenges of being undocumented, BIPOC Oregonians face the additional compounding trauma and terror of; racial profiling, increased immigration enforcement, detention, family persecution and forced removal to a country where they have fled violence and persecution. In the face of this national crisis, Oregon can lead with a stride of informed dignity by ensuring our undocumented Oregonians receive fair representation.

Universal Legal Representation expands the successful Equity Corps pilot program funded by Multnomah County, the City of Portland and the State of Oregon to build statewide infrastructure for immigration legal defense. This program would prepare Oregon for any national immigration policies by creating community-led pathways to citizenship.

**In passing HB 3230, the program would;**

- Create a statewide call center that would streamline resources by providing direct contacts and access for anyone seeking help or information
- Community members would be able to choose their provider
- Community based organizations would utilize their deep local connections in the community to oversee the infrastructure of program policy and fiscal decisions

Our state is enriched by the thousands of immigrants and refugees who live in both metropolitan and rural areas in Oregon, who are critical to key Oregon industries and communities. Universal representation means that our undocumented community members will be less likely to endure the traumatic experiences of deportation.

It is beyond time that we stepped up for the rights of our undocumented community members and ensure that their voices are heard and protected. **We urge you to vote YES on HB3020.**

Thank you.