

Good afternoon House Majority Leader Smith Warner, House Minority Leader Drazan and members of the Rules committee,

For the record, my name is Eleazar Gamez, Pronouns He/Him/El. A first-generation DACAmented college student at Portland State University in my third year. I came before you as the Director of Dream PSU, a committee member of the Portland State University Dreamer Student Success Center, a Portland state university student, policy intern coordinator for the Oregon Student Association, Hillsboro School District AVID tutor, and as a concerned community member.

As I mentioned, I am currently under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program also known as DACA, born in Mexico, yet raised in this country since 9 months of age. Growing up, there has and continues to be a disregard for obtaining statistics of marginalized communities across the state. Why is this an issue you may ask? Well, the same marginalized communities that are not being heard, valued, and considered are the very communities that politicians do not take under consideration when implementing new policies in this state.

The fact is HB 2745 is the first step forward in analyzing information of marginalized communities such as what their race, ethnicity, and language are to provide hard numbers and information that will be used for policies that will be influenced in this beautiful diverse state. It is time that all folks from all communities are being represented adequately in all aspects of policy by having the data. And the great component of this house bill is that it protects individuals to keep their privacy when providing information regarding their personal identity. As public officials, it is your responsibility and due diligence to serve your constituents, your diverse communities, and overall, to serve the citizens of this state. Can I count on your support for House Bill 2745?

Thank you for your time and consideration.