

Good afternoon Co-Chairs Johnson, Steiner-Hayward and Rayfield, and vice Co-Chairs Girod, Gomberg and Smith; and members of Oregon's Joint Committee on Ways & Means. My name is Aracely and I live in Clackamas, District #3. I am a volunteer at the Oregon Food Bank. I am addressing you today because for me your support with House Bill 3230 Universal Representation which is included as a priority item in *the People's Budget*.

For me is important that *the People's Budget* funds requested for HB 3230 Universal Representation be available for Oregonians that are experiencing challenges getting access to reliable legal representation services. It is important that people get access to this type of service 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 feel comfortable with myself and experience a sense of safety because I could have legal services from a professional that is knows the law system of this country and this person is practicing the law in an ethical and transparent way.

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. Together we can create a more resilient system for all Oregonians. Thank you so much for your support with *the People's Budget* request for HB 3230.