

Submitter: Nadene LeCheminant

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110  
Implementation

Measure: SB1543

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Senate Judiciary Committee members,

I am writing in support of SB 1543, which would provide immigrant Oregonians with legal support during deportation proceedings.

Immigrant Oregonians, including thousands of agricultural workers, make up the backbone of our essential services. Many of these workers have a legal right to remain in the U.S. but are routinely deported simply because they can't afford an attorney. Immigrants contribute to our communities in many ways. They plant and harvest our crops, establish businesses, and help create more vibrant communities. And yet many live in fear of deportation and separation from their families, simply because they lack the financial resources to secure legal support.

Representation by an attorney is the single most determinative factor in the outcome of a deportation proceeding. Representation by an attorney improves someone's chances of staying with their family by 457 percent. This bill safeguards due process by allowing immigrant Oregonians to access the rights afforded to them under existing law.

SB 1543 would also help protect Oregon businesses, which rely on immigrant employees. If these employees are vulnerable to unnecessary deportation, it not only harms immigrants, but harms the businesses and communities that rely on the valuable services that immigrant Oregonians provide.

Please help protect the rights of everyone who calls Oregon home. Support SB 1543!

Sincerely,  
Nadene LeCheminant  
Salem