

SUBJECT: Yes on SB 1543

Chair Prosanski, Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Judicial Committee,

My name is Luis and I live in Washington County. I am writing in support of Universal Legal Representation.

I am writing in support of HB 3230, Universal Legal Representation, which would provide immigrant Oregonians with legal support during deportation proceedings. Many people in removal proceedings have valid legal claims to remain in the country and continue to contribute to Oregon's communities, but no way to articulate these claims without the assistance of counsel.

This bill is important to me because I know community members who I go to church with have been deported for not having the right and affordable legal representation. Someone I know was separated from their family two years ago, leaving behind a child with special needs and his entire family behind. It is good to know that if this law passes, immigrant families like myself would be able to access legal support in different part of the state and through a trusted and accessible statewide number.

We must protect the rights of everyone who calls Oregon home and support their ability to thrive. By doing so, we can continue being a place that values families and communities.

Thank you.

Luis,