



February 8, 2022

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

VIA OLIS

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, Members of the Committee:

As you know, Washington County is the second largest count in the state of Oregon and is home to one of the most diverse populations in the state. As a result, our community is made up of people that are in various immigration positions. For that reason, we support SB 1543.

As the committee is aware, facing immigration proceedings is a complicated and intimidating process for anyone. The results of going through these proceedings without understanding have profound impacts to the individual, their family, the community and our state.

When families are split because an individual is in an immigration proceeding or sent out of the country because they did not know how to assert their rights, the remaining family must determine how to replace their economic contribution as they struggle with the irreplaceable lost relationship. This means they may have to turn to safety nets provided by non-profits and to county services.

Additionally, employers face disruptions if their employees have to navigate the system and the loss of workers if they are deported. This exacerbates our workforce shortages and harms our local business communities.

SB 1543 creates a better chance for people to understand and work through the legal immigration process and Washington County urges your support.

On behalf of the county,

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