



To: Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation
From: Maggie Gates, Legislative Director, Oregon Student Association
RE: Testimony in Support of SB 1543

Hello Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee,

My name is Maggie Gates, and I am submitting this testimony on the behalf of the Oregon Student Association (OSA). OSA is a statewide, student-led advocacy and organizing nonprofit established in 1975 to represent, serve, and protect the collective interests of students in post-secondary education in Oregon. We represent over 80,000 students and work to make quality education more affordable and accessible for *all* Oregonians.

On behalf of OSA I urge your support of Senate Bill 1543 to ensure Oregon's immigrants have access to legal representation during deportation proceedings. Oregon's immigrants should be provided their right to accessible, culturally responsive, and community focused legal services.

Many people in removal proceedings have valid legal claims to remain in the country and continue to contribute to Oregon's communities. However, they have no way to articulate these claims without the assistance of counsel. This bill safeguards due process by allowing immigrant Oregonians to access the rights afforded to them under existing law.

All Oregonians should be treated with dignity and respect regardless of where they were born. But Oregonians who are immigrants, especially Black, Indigenous, and people of color, face traumatic experiences with racial profiling, detention, family separation, and inequitable legal processes. Universal legal representation is a step in the right direction for achieving immigrant and racial justice and **would directly benefit thousands of DACA and TPS recipients and first and second generation immigrant students in higher education across Oregon.**

Students in Oregon support protecting the rights of everyone who calls Oregon home and support their ability to thrive. Please join OSA in supporting SB 1543.

Thank you for your time,

Maggie Gates
Legislative Director at OSA