

16 February 2023

Senate Committee on Human Services

Re: Senate Bill 610

Dear Chair Senator Blouin, Vice-Chair Senator Robinson and members Manning, Jr., Prozanski and Weber;

“Charity is no part of the legislative duty of the government.” James Madison

I am against this bill because it uses our state monies,* and I resent the state using tax payer’s dollar to fund people who are in our state illegally.

There is no virtue in compulsory government charity, and there is no virtue in advocating it. A legislator who portrays himself as ‘caring’ and ‘sensitive’ because he wants to expand the government’s charitable programs is merely saying that he’s willing to try to do good with other people’s money. Well, who wouldn’t be?

Without a doubt it is admirable to care about the plight of suffering of fellow human beings. However, as an elected official of Oregon, your oath is to Oregon citizens and *their* well being. The function of an Oregon political office is not to correct the affairs of people who have entered our state— and country—illegally. Yet, our state government compels us to assume the responsibility for everyone’s welfare.

As we all know, reaching in to one’s own pocket to help the needy or less fortunate is praiseworthy. Reaching in to someone else’s pocket – for any purpose—is stealing. Those who believe they owe people in our state who came here illegally anything at all need to open their own homes to them, they need to dip into their own pockets and provide the wherewithal. Whose pockets do the sponsors and supporters of SB 610 have their hands in? Tax-payers!

If one crosses into North Korean illegally, they get 12 years hard labor. If they cross into Afghanistan illegally, they get shot. With Iran, 8 years in prison. If one crosses the U. S. border illegally, they get a job, a driver’s license, food stamps, a place to live, health care, housing, child benefits, and education.

Stop making it so attractive to come to our state illegally. If people want to help them, fine, they should do so. But do so on their own dime.

History suggests that the cause of prosperity’s decline is, as a rule, that the state has sought to do too much rather than too little. Just where is the great state of Oregon leading us with legislation such as this?

Sincerely,



Richard Wisner

* Section 1. (2)