



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Criminal Justice Commission

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19 April 2023

### RE: Senate Bill 597

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Anderson and Wallan, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing to provide testimony regarding Senate Bill 597, which supports the implementation of the federal U-Visa program in Oregon and extends U-Visa certification reporting requirements originally included in Senate Bill 962 in 2019. While the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission takes no position on Senate Bill 597, I will provide informational testimony regarding the role the Commission has played in the data tracking aspect of the state's U-Visa program.

The Legislature passed Senate Bill 962 in 2019, which improved Oregon's support for crime victim immigrants seeking U-Visas. As part of that legislation, the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission was tasked with collecting information regarding U-Visa certifications from local jurisdictions and providing reports using that data to the Oregon Legislature. Since 2019, the Commission has filed two reports,<sup>1</sup> documenting 544 U-Visa certification requests in 2020 and 576 requests in 2021. Of those requests, 78.9% and 70.0% were approved, respectively. For those certification requests not approved, these reports provide a breakdown of qualifying denial reasons by type of certifying agency.

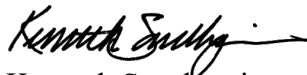
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<sup>1</sup> 2020 Report: [https://www.oregon.gov/cjc/CJC%20Document%20Library/U\\_VISA\\_Report\\_2022\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/cjc/CJC%20Document%20Library/U_VISA_Report_2022_FINAL.pdf);  
2021 Report: [https://www.oregon.gov/cjc/CJC%20Document%20Library/U\\_Visa\\_Report\\_Dec2022.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/cjc/CJC%20Document%20Library/U_Visa_Report_Dec2022.pdf).

The requirement that local jurisdictions report the information provided above was repealed in January of this year via a sunset in Senate Bill 962, Section 3. The bill currently before this committee, Senate Bill 597, would reinstate the reporting requirement. The Commission believes that this data reporting program provides important information regarding the U-Visa process within the state. Should Senate Bill 597 pass, the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission will continue to administer this data collection program as it has since 2019 and will do so with the existing resources it current possesses.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Best,



Kenneth Sanchagrin

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