

April 21, 2023

Ways and Means Road Show Testimony 2023
RE: HB 2957, Immigration Legal Services

Good evening Co-Chairs, Co-Vice Chairs and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Liliana, I live in Washington County in Oregon. I am here today to testify in favor of HB 2957, funding for immigration legal services for Oregonians.

The budget fund for immigration legal services for immigrants is important to me because it supports and helps all those Oregonians who are at a critical time in their life due to the lack of not having their own home, a stable job, no immediate access to social security, no higher education, or have a difficulty speaking English. Many people are and have been without an immigration status because they cannot afford the services of an immigration attorney and at the same time be able to cover the fees for the immigration process.

HB 2957 would allow for all of these people to have access to a consultation with an immigration attorney and have the grant to pay for the attorney and immigration fees. This fund would reduce the level of stress for many people who are eligible to obtain a permanent immigration status but haven't done it because of the lack of the high cost.

HB 2957 would provide security, a sense of belonging and most of all stability to those that are eligible to obtain a permanent immigration status. Having an immigration status will lead to many immigrants being accepted as a productive member in the community making stronger connections between one another.

Please vote yes on a fund for HB 2957.

Thank you,

Liliana