



Date: April 25, 2023
To: Senate Committee on Rules
From: Isa Peña, Innovation Law Lab
RE: Support SJR 33

Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the committee,

My name is Isa Peña and I am the Director of Strategy at Innovation Law Lab. Innovation Law Lab is an Oregon-based non-profit that leverages the power of the legal system, technology, and advocacy to support our state's immigrant and refugee population.

Everyone deserves to live a life free from discrimination. However, our current state constitution does not recognize same-gender marriages and does not support some of the necessary protections for all Oregonians to live a life free of bias.

Some of the decisions that individual Oregonians make on a daily basis are deeply personal, and current policy is sometimes restrictive on when people are able to make important healthcare, social service, and marital choices.

Oregon's immigrant and refugee populations have been some of the most impacted by such restrictions. Due to cultural and linguistic differences, and an understandable hesitation to trust certain government and healthcare institutions, these immigrant and refugee communities have often been unable to access affordable healthcare, the legal system, and public benefit programs. The existing language in Oregon's constitution continues to restrict the ability for immigrants and refugees to fully enter Oregon society, receive the care they need, and marry who they love.

SJR 33 will enshrine in Oregon's constitution the core values of acceptance and respect for personal decisions that should not be subject to government interference. This resolution will make it clear that Oregonians can marry who we love and promote equity and inclusion for all.

Innovation Law Lab strongly urges your support of SJR 33.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isa Peña". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Isa Peña