



Church World Service (CWS) Testimony Endorsing HB 4085

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Committee,

[More than half](#) of foreign-born Oregonians have become U.S. citizens since immigrating to the United States. The overwhelming majority of immigrant Oregonians value becoming naturalized citizens, fully participating in the privileges of citizenship.

However, tens of thousands of Oregonians, including [108,000](#) long-time residents still lack immigration documentation and are unable to pursue a path to permanent status, due to both the high cost of legal services in the state, application fees with certain immigration pathways, and challenges navigating the complex immigration process. This process can be overwhelming, leaving many families in a position where they don't even know where to start unless they are afforded legal representation.

House Bill 4085 directs Oregon's Department of Human Services (ODHS) to provide grants, based on income level, that cover the legal fees that undocumented Oregonians may incur as they navigate the process of applying for permanent protection. CWS urges you to support HB 4085.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Warmly,

Meredith Owen
Director of Policy and Advocacy
Church World Service