

February 5, 2024

Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chairs Scharf and Nguyen and Members of the  
Committee,

My name is John Herrera, and I serve as Director of Catholic Charities  
Immigration Legal Services.

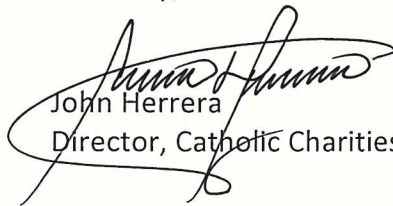
**Catholic Charities of Oregon enthusiastically supports HB 4085, Pathways to  
Protection and Citizenship.**

Up to 1 in 3 Oregonians who lack documentation are eligible under existing  
federal law for protection, but lack access to immigration legal assistance.<sup>i</sup>

More than half of foreign-born Oregonians have become U.S. citizens since  
immigrating to the United States.<sup>ii</sup> The overwhelming majority of immigrant  
Oregonians value becoming naturalized citizens, fully participating in the  
privileges of citizenship. However, tens of thousands of Oregonians are unable  
to afford immigration legal services.

Proactive affirmative immigration legal services will create pathways to  
citizenship and provide safety, security and stability for our immigrant and  
refugee communities.

Sincerely,



John Herrera  
Director, Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services

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<sup>i</sup> LexTerra Strategies. Oregon Immigration Legal Needs Report (2020).

<sup>ii</sup> Migration Policy Institute, State Immigration Data Profiles, 2021.

**Immigration Legal Services**

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