



February 5th, 2024

RE: Support for Funding for HB4085

Dear, Mrs. President, Co-Chairs, and Committee members

I, the President of the Iu Mien Association of Oregon (IMAO), come from an immigrant family background with personal experience navigating a broken state and federal systems. Myself and my Community urge you to prioritize \$6 million in funding for HB4085. The Iu Mien Community understands how difficult it is to raise a family in a country, in an environment where the odds seem to be stacked against them. The journey is more daunting when you have to constantly worry about your family facing deportation or that you may be separated from the ones you love for the rest of your life. The Iu Mien Association of Oregon believes that we have a moral obligation to ensure our immigrant and refugee communities have access to the services they need to stay united with their families, work, and live their fullest lives.

Proactive and affirmative immigration legal services can create pathways to citizenship and provide safety, security, and stability for our immigrant and refugee communities. This includes giving them the ability to apply for citizenship status such as; refugee's, asylees, temporary protected status, humanitarian parole, and lawful permanent residents (also called "green card"). Individuals who wish to change their immigration status or apply for a green card must follow a process with USCIS to petition for a change in status and pay related fees. These fees have become unattainable for many immigrant and refugee communities. HB4085 will direct Oregon's Department of Human Services 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. These grants can be used to pay for application fees for citizenship, residency, or visas.

I urge you to support HB4085, if fully funded, will touch the lives of thousands in a ways that is immeasurable by anything tangible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cayle Tern

Cayle Tern, President
Iu Mien Association of Oregon