

02/04/2024

SUBJECT: Yes, to HB 4085, Fund Pathways to Citizenship

Yes, on HB 4085

Chair Reynolds.

Vice-Chair Nguyen.

Vice-Chair Scharf.

Members of the Committee:

My name is Maria Regino and I live in Aloha-Washington County. I am writing in support of House Bill 4085, Pathway to Citizenship, which would assist many immigrants to seek immigration legal services to obtain or change a lawful permanent status. HB 4085 is important to me because of the challenges I have faced in struggling to pay my own immigration attorney and USCIS filing fees.

Thanks to HB-4085 last year I was able to obtain my citizenship. The funds helped me not only financially but also provided me with information and resources to prepare for my citizenship exam. During the process I met people in the community who had their permanent residence for more than ten years and due to lack of money they could not become citizens and thanks to HB-4085 they were able to obtain their American citizenship.

I'm a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic church in Aloha. In our community we have members who need this support to become citizens so their voice can be heard and one day be able to vote. I firmly believe in the values and human dignity that HB-4085 can provide for our vulnerable communities.

HB 4085 would protect many Oregonians households who are low income. For these reasons, I urge you to support House Bill HB 4085 to ensure access to immigration legal services for all.

Sincerely,

Maria Regino

Thank you!