

Submitter: Hoiyee Cheung  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB528

Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Urgent Support for SB 528 – Expanded Reach Bill

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Growing Ancestral Roots (GAR) to urge you to support SB 528 – Expanded Reach, a critical bill that directly impacts the survival and security of immigrant, refugee, and BIPOC communities in Oregon. At a time when federal policies are increasingly hostile toward immigrant families, Oregon has the opportunity—and the responsibility—to act. The stakes could not be higher.

GAR works directly with immigrant and refugee families who are deeply woven into Oregon's food system and local economies. These communities are not only essential to our agricultural and food industries but are also striving to build sustainable futures through cooperative businesses, food sovereignty initiatives, and economic self-determination. However, without expanded protections and resources, many of these families face devastating instability, including deportation risks, financial precarity, and systemic exclusion from basic economic opportunities.

With federal policies tightening restrictions on immigrants, the rollback of asylum protections, and heightened deportation threats, our communities are left with shrinking options for security and economic mobility. SB 528 is not just a policy decision—it is a moral imperative. Without action, Oregon risks losing the very people who sustain its food systems, care for its communities, and enrich its culture.

This bill will provide expanded access to resources, pathways for economic inclusion, and crucial protections that allow immigrant and refugee communities to continue contributing to the fabric of Oregon. Specifically, for organizations like GAR, this bill means:

Increased economic stability for immigrant entrepreneurs who are building small businesses in food, agriculture, and cooperative markets.  
Protections for community members facing legal uncertainty, ensuring they have access to resources and due process rather than living in fear of displacement.  
A strengthened local food system, where immigrant and BIPOC farmers and food

producers can participate equitably and help Oregon move toward food security and sustainability.

We cannot afford to wait. Every day without action means more families left vulnerable, more businesses unable to grow, and more communities pushed further into the margins. Oregon must lead where the federal government has failed, ensuring that all of its residents—regardless of immigration status—have the ability to thrive.

I urge you to pass SB 528 without hesitation and demonstrate that Oregon stands for justice, equity, and the protection of its most vital communities.

Sincerely,

Hoiyee Cheung  
Executive Director  
Growing Ancestral Roots