

Submitter: Yana Ponomarova

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB476

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Yana Ponomarova, and I support Senate Bill 476. I came to the U.S. 3 years ago as a refugee with a higher education master's degree and work experience of 17 years. In my country, I was able to achieve career growth. I ran a laboratory for testing metals for export abroad. However, I could not continue my career in the USA because the process of recognizing my diploma was too difficult and expensive. I had to take other jobs to support my family instead of working in my profession.

Many refugees have the same problem. They are doctors, nurses, and professionals, but they cannot work in their fields. This is bad for them, their families, and the community. At the same time, Oregon needs more skilled workers, especially in healthcare.

SB 476 can help. It will make the process easier for refugees and immigrants to work in their professions. This will help them and also help Oregon by filling important jobs. Please support SB 476. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Yana Ponomarova