



Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 476.

People make Oregon their home because they dream of what we all want - to live safely, care for their families, and contribute to their communities. Our state is enriched by the different experiences, cultures, and traditions that all of us bring to our neighborhoods and communities across Oregon.

Immigrant and refugee Oregonians help our state and economy thrive, and there are many who have a professional medical background from their home country. Such immigrants and refugees are often incredibly skilled in their profession - and want to contribute to Oregon's workforce - but have no way of practicing here because of the barriers our state has in place. Such barriers come at a time when Oregon faces substantial workforce shortages in key industries, including healthcare.

Our state has an urgent need for doctors and other types of medical providers to ensure that Oregonians are healthy and safe. This bill will help establish a pathway for Oregon to recognize the accomplishments and training of medical providers who are trained in other countries, while allowing for a bolstering of key workforce shortages.

SB 476 would reduce barriers for participation in our economy, and ensure that immigrants and refugees can participate in our workforce.

We urge your support of this important bill, and we thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Isa Peña
Director of Strategy - Innovation Law Lab