

Submitter: Connie Whelchel

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

In Oregon, we must first address our most urgent issues:

Out-of-control spending

Failing education (ranked #45 nationally, with the worst math and reading scores)

A 1500% increase in fentanyl overdose deaths—the highest in the nation

Rising homelessness and housing shortages

Severe DUI rates (6th in the nation, 5th for alcohol-related traffic deaths)

The highest number of registered sex offenders in the country

Lack of public defenders

Costly business regulations that make Oregon one of the most expensive states to start a business

And, sadly, the brutal list goes on in this state...

Only after fixing these crises of the citizens (who voted for you to represent and take care of us) should we consider using taxpayer dollars to support crises of illegals. In the meantime, there are excellent nonprofits and faith-based organizations that can help them.

As elected officials, your top priority should be taking care of the Oregonians you were elected to serve—not placing additional burdens on struggling families who are your constituents.

Thank you.