

Submitter: Patricia Rumer  
On Behalf Of: SB 703  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB703

To the distinguished members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. I wholeheartedly support SB 703. I have volunteered to accompany and support immigrants in the Portland Metro area since the 2007 Del Monte ICE raid. I am not an attorney but I have lived and worked in Latin America and am fluent in Spanish. I am aware of the situations that many people have fled seeking asylum in the United States or joining family members already here. Legal counsel can make the difference between deportation and/or denial of their case for permanent residency or green card. My church, Ainsworth United Church of Christ, has supported several asylum seekers from Central America. I know the challenges of trying to find a pro bono attorney for them.

Statistics show the without legal representation only one of ten will have a positive outcome to their case. The federal government is actively seeking to deport as many refugees or asylum seekers and immigrants without status. Oregon is a sanctuary state. We need to support our neighbors and community members who are seeking to regularize their status so that they can live in Oregon without fear and raise their families here. There is an economic side to this issue. Many undocumented persons work in agriculture and nurseries and are a vital part of Oregon's economy.

I urge you to pass this legislation in order to demonstrate that Oregon protects its residents. Access to attorneys is critical for persons seeking legal representation for a successful outcome with their petitions to legalize their status.

Sincerely, Patricia J Rumer