

Submitter:

Cindra Gray

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB703

I am writing on behalf of those people in our state who cannot afford to engage legal counsel to help them to legally remain here in the state or in the country. There are many good people who have made their way here and are living productive, fruitful lives, trying to make a better future for themselves and their families. If it is possible to help them to obtain a legal way in which to remain, I support that way wholeheartedly. It is difficult for people who don't have the proper papers to chance coming forward to ask for help, they can put themselves into a situation which may only harm their cause and not help it. If a trusted nonprofit could be funded to help people who come to them for other things, like medical or nutritional needs, that would be an effect use of a channel that is already established, rather than trying to build a completely new pathway. Trust must be built and takes time to establish that trust. Many people who need help with noncitizens status have earned a right to live in our state, by working hard, being good neighbors and good community members. What profit is there in excluding them from obtaining rights to lawful status?

I know many people who live in my community, go to my church, who I am proud to call my friends. They want only what we want, as Oregonians. Let's help them achieve that goal, something we could do, something that would be the right thing to do. No mention is made of the cost to the State, but as a taxpayer, I would gladly see my taxes go for this goal.

Our State can be a role model for other States that may be looking to do something similar. Instead of turning our backs on our neighbors, it's time to step up and do the next right thing. I love this State because we seem to move forward toward justice, and this is a move in that direction. Thank you to the Oregon State Legislature for making this step forward.