Submitter:	Rachel Freed
On Behalf Of:	
Committee:	Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB703

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 703, which directs the Department of Human Services to provide grants to nonprofit service providers for assisting noncitizens in changing their immigration status or obtaining lawful permanent resident status. I believe this legislation raises significant concerns regarding resource allocation and prioritization.

First and foremost, the use of state funds to assist noncitizens in obtaining legal status diverts valuable resources away from programs and services that support citizens and legal residents within our community. Our state faces numerous pressing issues, including education, healthcare, and housing affordability, that require immediate attention and funding. By prioritizing grants for immigration assistance, we risk neglecting these critical areas that directly impact the lives of our citizens.

Moreover, this bill could create an incentive for individuals to enter or remain in our country unlawfully, potentially undermining the integrity of our immigration system. While it is essential to provide support to those in need, our focus should be on upholding the rule of law and ensuring that immigration processes are followed appropriately.

Additionally, the implementation of this program may lead to increased administrative burdens on nonprofit organizations, which may not have the capacity to effectively manage and oversee the distribution of these grants. This could result in inefficiencies and unintended consequences that ultimately detract from the intended goals of the legislation.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider support for Senate Bill 703. Instead of allocating state resources to assist noncitizens in altering their immigration status, we should focus on addressing the needs of our citizens and legal residents, ensuring that our limited resources are directed toward programs that benefit the entire community.