

Submitter: Catherine Bax

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB703

Dear Senators,

I am whole heartedly in support of SB 703. This is a bill to provide state funds to nonprofit organizations to help them provide legal services to people who have a case to obtain permanent residential status. This is not a bill to help people flaunt the law!

I read the 3 testimonies that oppose the bill and am dismayed. It seems that the main reason given to oppose this bill is the threat that if Oregon helps people who are at risk of being deported, the federal government will take away funds or somehow punish our state because we pushed back against an unjust agenda, propagated by an administration that thinks and continues to act like it is above the law. It is time for legislators and citizens in this country to stand up for the legal protections that should be available to people who live and work and contribute to our country, to Oregon.

Being rich and being able to afford a lawyer should not determine whether a person has equal protection under the law.

Get this bill passed. Don't throw in the towel and give our democracy and way of life away without our best fight.

Catherine Bax