

Submitter: Erin Meechan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB703

Chair Prozanski Vice-Chair Thatcher and members of the committee

My Name is Erin Meechan and I am a resident in Gresham, Oregon. I am a mom of teenagers at Gresham High School and I am active in the community in many capacities, specifically racial justice and housing justice for all.

I enthusiastically support SB 703, Pathways to Protection and Citizenship. SB 703 allocates funding to service providers that will support the continued journey for those on the path to legal immigration status in Oregon. These are people who have already started the immigration process through the right paths. They have families, roots, jobs and are a part of the communities we live in. This is a bill that will save and strengthen families, mixed-status families and improve outcomes in ODHS programs, bolster our workforce and support the final steps into immigration status compliance.

Up to 1/3 of Oregonians without a cleared immigration status are actually eligible under federal law. That is over 25,000 Oregonians that are eligible that have taken the steps to become legally documented and are now, due to high cost in legal services, are living in fear and unable to complete the process. These communities make up more than 13% of our state's workforce and need our support.

I urge you to support SB 703. We must not turn our backs on these families who, due to financial constraints alone, wish to remain in compliance..

Thank you for your time and for standing with all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Erin Meechan
Gresham Resident