

Testimony in Support of SB 703

Thursday, March 20, 2025

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Piyawee Ruenjinda, and I work with immigrants and refugees in Oregon. I am writing today in strong support of SB 703, which would provide essential assistance to noncitizens seeking to adjust their immigration status.

Every day, I see firsthand the struggles that individuals and families face when they fall through the cracks of our immigration system. Many people in our communities live in limbo—unable to plan for their future, contribute fully to the economy, or feel secure in the place they call home. This uncertainty does not serve the greater good.

Oregon has long been a leader in upholding human dignity and inclusion, as demonstrated by our status as a Sanctuary State and the establishment of the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement. SB 703 is a necessary step to align policy with our values by ensuring that those who are eligible under federal law receive the support they need to navigate complex immigration processes.

Beyond the moral imperative, there are clear economic benefits. As the U.S. faces an aging workforce, integrating more individuals into the labor market strengthens our economy and social infrastructure. Ensuring that more Oregonians have stable legal status allows them to pursue better job opportunities, contribute more in taxes, and invest in their communities.

I urge your support for SB 703 to uphold Oregon's commitment to equity, economic resilience, and the well-being of all who call this state home.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Piyawee Ruenjinda

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Member of Unite Oregon