

Submitter: Emily Krafft
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006
Co-Chair Lieber, Co-Chair Sanchez, and Members of the Committee,

I urge your strong support of the Immigrant Justice Package. We need to fund the programs in this package which protect our neighbors, strengthen our workforce, and create a state where everyone can thrive.

With the core programs in our safety net at dire risk at the national level and immigrants increasingly being targeted with illegal seizure and deportation, this is a critical time for Oregon to shore up and strengthen our programs to protect Oregonians.

If unaddressed, the sabotage of federal programs will weaken Oregon's economy, destabilize communities, and strain critical systems - impacting all Oregonians. So many of us, from elders who could lose social security, to federal workers who could lose their job any day, to folks enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan who could lose their health care, to trans folks and immigrants who are being subject to increasingly violent attacks - and so many more of us - we are scared and uncertain.

While Oregon has long recognized that we're stronger together, safety net programs often exclude immigrant Oregonians, and critical services for immigrant families are underfunded or leave dangerous gaps in coverage. The 2025 Immigrant Justice Package offers proven, cost-effective solutions by ensuring access to legal representation, disaster relief, housing stability, language support, and food assistance—basic rights that help families stay together and succeed. These community-led programs support farmworkers, caregivers, and others who are the backbone of Oregon's economy. By addressing crises like hunger, eviction, and deportation, the package ensures stability and dignity for all. Legislators have a crucial opportunity to act now to protect Oregon's families and workers.

Universal Representation is one thing we can do to ensure due process by providing legal representation to immigrants facing deportation or seeking to adjust their status. This successful program will help 10,000 Oregonians maintain stability in its first two years.

Food for All Oregonians (SB 611) and the Home Fund will provide emergency assistance to prevent eviction and homelessness, and prevent youth and elderly Oregonians from going hungry. Making these and other important programs accessible to all is paramount, and the Indigenous Language Justice will help

35,000+ Indigenous language speakers access qualified interpreters for critical services.

Finally, as the weather warms this week and we begin to think of summertime, we are also reminded of the extreme heat and wildfires that have become increasingly commonplace during Oregon summers. Agricultural workers are some of the most impacted during extreme weather, and the Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund (HB 3193) will provide some protection for these essential workers when it is unsafe to work.

I urge you to pass this package and to do all that you can to strengthen protections for Oregonians during this harrowing time. This important legislation is only the beginning. Thank you for standing up for Oregonians. Your service matters.

By funding the 2025 Immigrant Justice Package, we can build a stronger, more resilient state for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Emily Krafft
Portland, OR