

Submitter: D Torres
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2586
Chair & Committee Members,

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 2586.

First and foremost, offering tuition exemptions to nonresident asylum seekers creates a disparity for out-of-state U.S. citizens who pay full nonresident rates. Many of these students and their families contribute significantly to the cost of their education, and this policy would place them at an unfair disadvantage simply based on their immigration status.

Second, our state already faces budget constraints that affect access, affordability, and quality of higher education for resident students. By extending nonresident tuition waivers to asylum seekers, we risk diverting limited resources away from in-state students—many of whom are struggling to afford college themselves.

Furthermore, such a policy could serve as a powerful incentive for individuals with pending immigration cases to relocate to our state solely for the purpose of receiving this financial benefit, putting additional pressure on our educational infrastructure and potentially undermining the intent of residency-based tuition.

Finally, this proposal circumvents the traditional residency requirements that exist for a reason: to ensure that those receiving subsidized tuition have a genuine, sustained connection to our state. It is not appropriate to grant such significant benefits to individuals whose long-term residency status has not yet been determined.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to reject this proposal. It is time to STOP WASTING TAXPAYER \$\$ and CREATING INCENTIVES TO ATTRACT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ON THE BACKS OF ALL OREGONIANS!. We have way too much homelessness, not enough housing for legal residents and find many of our Veterans still on the streets. When do legislators begin working on fixing these issues and not creating more of it? It is past time to follow the law of the United States of America and put Oregonians first in this state! Illegal means just that.... ILLEGAL... definition: a person who enters or lives in a country without the documentation required for legal entry or residence.

Legislators need to stop trying to circumvent federal law, especially when trying to purposely attract people who have broken the law and trying to use our tax dollars to put them in school, feed them, and house them all the while we have legitimate

citizens and veterans who need this type of assistance more. When do legislators put US Citizens and Oregonians first? Or do you even represent Oregonians anymore?

Legislators Oath of Office: "I do solemnly swear, or affirm, that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Oregon, and I will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of Senator or Representative of this state, according to the best of my ability."

"So what does that imply for the role of a legislator in Congress? Not least that to do right by their constituents and the nation they must learn as much as they can about the federal government, and they also must help the public understand what is what. Critically, the legislator has an obligation to guide voters away from foolish, dangerous, or unconstitutional positions and demands. The willingness to do this delineates between a leader and a flatterer.." by Kevin R. Kosar, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

Oregonians prefer leadership and not flatterers of policies that negatively impact their constituents.