

Submitter: Denice Searcy
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2586
NO on HB 2586 A

As in the “homeless industrial complex”, in the same vein, it looks like many of the efforts in Oregon to help immigrants in the US illegally have spurred the creation of an “Illegals Industry” that, while claiming to be positively managing a problem is spurring it. And in the process, just as with homelessness, government is lighting our money on fire.

That’s the Shirky Principle at work: “Institutions will try to preserve the problem to which they are the solution.”

The current debate in the Oregon legislature over a Food For All Oregonians program proposed by SB 611 illustrates the problem of the Illegals Industrial Complex. The program proposes providing nutrition assistance to residents of Oregon who are under 26 years of age or 55 years of age or older and who would qualify for federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits but for their immigration status. In other words, it would extend to people in the United States illegally food benefits equivalent to those provided under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program. I AM vehemently opposed to this bill also.

While all may have a sincere concern for the non-citizens in Oregon, supporting state funding of free food for non-citizens also encourages immigrants (Illegal Aliens) to come here illegally, perpetuating the problem. As the Economic Policy Innovation Center, a conservative think tank, puts it,” Many illegal aliens become eligible for taxpayer-funded welfare programs, costing billions of dollars annually. These benefits... are a significant pull factor for illegal immigration.”

Oregon is already generous to non-citizens, such as spending \$29 on free hotel rooms, which attracted non-citizens (Illegal Aliens) from California and caused the program to run out of funding, an Oregon housing program offering \$30,000 for home payments, and \$1,000 per month stipends through Governor Kotek's Direct Cash Transfer Program. I, as a citizen, am not afforded these entitlements. How are you going to pay for this? Just the PERS system alone is bankrupting our state.

Additionally, Oregon has already expanded free health insurance that mirrors Medicaid to all residents who qualify, regardless of their immigration status. Non-citizens, including undocumented residents, the Constitution calls then Illegal Aliens,

also have access to Oregon driver licenses, despite Oregonians voting 66% to 44% in 2014 against giving driver's license privileges to people without proper U.S. government documentation. The Legislature overrode voters in 2019 by pushing a bill through (HB 2015) with a clause that didn't allow for a citizen referendum.

Several bills are also before the 2025 legislature that would offer other benefits to non-citizens.

SB 703, for example, directs the Department of Human Services to provide grants to non-profit service providers to assist individuals who are non-citizens to change their immigration status or obtain lawful permanent resident status. The bill is sponsored by 4 Democratic senators, 5 Democratic representatives and 1 Republican representative.

Then there is HB 2586, in-state tuition for "asylum seekers" AKA Illegal Aliens.

You can be sure Oregon's Illegals Industry will support all of these bills, regardless of the cost or impact to the legal tax-paying citizens of this state.