

Submitter:

Chris O'Neill

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2586

Honorable Chair Frederick and members of the Senate Committee on Education, My name is Chris O'Neill, and I live in Eugene. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB2586. I respectfully encourage its passage, thereby allowing eligible asylum seekers at public universities in Oregon to access in-state tuition rates.

Immigrants applying for asylum are pursuing an internationally recognized human right. Unlike some of the claims against allowing this exception for in-state tuition, applicants are legally present in the US while their applications are processed. They are not "illegal aliens."

Furthermore, despite the animus shown by the current White House toward immigrants in general, many of the applicants may be granted lawful asylum status and will need to establish a stable working situation to support themselves and their families. It benefits our state to help them achieve that. It's not a handout. It's a hand up.

Please support passage of HB2586. Thank you.

Chris O'Neill

Eugene, Oregon