



**Senator Michael E. Dembrow**  
**Senate District 23**

June 26, 2021

Subject: Vote Explanation, HB 5006

I voted for HB 5006, which among many other worthy investments, maintains the current funding level of the Innovation Law Lab/Equity Corps program, ensuring Oregonians in deportation proceedings have an attorney by their side when they face the very real risk of being unjustly separated from their families. I was proud to partner with Sen. Jama and Reps. Alonso Leon and Salinas to co-author an expansion of this program this session. While HB 3230 did not pass this year, the need for legal representation and community-based wraparound services remains. As I stressed in my advocacy for ongoing funding for the Equity Corps program in HB 5006, this \$2m investment is intended to be bridge funding, allowing the legal services providers, community navigators and case clearinghouse to maintain their current levels of funding while we work toward future funding of immigration legal services funding for all. No Oregonian currently served by this program should lose their attorney, and the investment we make today means we will continue to stand by these Oregonians, and continue to show that Oregon is a welcoming place for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Dembrow".

Michael E. Dembrow

Senator, SD 23

