

**ANNA SCHARF**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 23



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

March 3, 2022

Chief Clerk Sekerak  
Oregon State Capitol

RE: Vote explanation for SB 1543 (A-Engrossed)

Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I wish to submit the following explanation for my vote on SB 1543 (A-Engrossed).

SB 1543 (A-Engrossed) establishes the Universal Representation Fund in the State Treasury to provide a statewide, integrated, universal navigation and representation system for immigration matters. Requires an established Oregon nonprofit to serve as the fiscal agent to award grants to organizations to provide services related to immigration matters through a universal representation program, at no cost to the client. It allocates \$15M for that purpose.

There are no limits as to who these funds will represent. It could be used to help people who flee war, famine or persecution in their home country that need legal assistance to help them in getting permission to stay. However, it could also be used to legally assist people who have been or could be convicted of a felony crime the ability to get legal counsel to avoid Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deportation.

Therefore, I voted no on the bill.

Regards,

Anna