

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
1819 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97201
O 503.302.9725/F 503.473.8519
Email: oaco.mail@oregon.gov
Website: www.oregon.gov/Hispanic

Testimony in Support of HB 3525
Monday, April 13, 2015, 3 pm
House Committee on Judiciary

Dear Chair Barker, Vice-Chairs Olson and Williamson, and Representatives Barton, Greenlick, Krieger, Lininger, Post, and Sprenger,

The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs supports HB 3525 and urges its passage. We worked closely with law enforcement agents and lawyers throughout the state to craft a bill that addresses a serious issue in our community – that of unlicensed non-lawyer "immigration consultants." These "notarios" prey on certain members of the public. Unlicensed immigration consultants are already prohibited under ORS 9.280. Despite that statute, some notarios use coercion and extortion to discourage members of the public from reporting them for their illegal practices. HB 3525 addresses this problem by providing that using intimidation or fear to prevent a person from reporting violations of ORS 9.280 is a Class A misdemeanor.

HB 3525 gives law enforcement a tool to investigate, charge, and prosecute egregious violations of Oregon's unlawful practice of law statute. It also encourages victims of those crimes to feel comfortable meeting with law enforcement.

This legislation is the product of a workgroup involving the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs, the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, representatives of the Oregon Department of Justice, the Oregon Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and the Human Trafficking Unit of Multnomah County Sheriff's Office.

We urge passage of this bill to help our community and the state as a whole.

Sincerely,

Alberto Moreno, Chair

OR Commission on Hispanic Affairs

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