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The Proverbial Frog

Chair Williamson, Vice-Chairs Gorsek & Sprenger and members of the Judiciary Committee:

Good afternoon -

My name is Cynthia Kendall - I serve as President of Oregonians for Immigration Reform – a statewide, single issue organization working to protect Oregon's *citizens and legal residents*. Our organization monitors legislation that shields foreign nationals illegally in our country, from detection, apprehension and removal.

Every year it gets worse and this year is no exception. The *real* question, however, is **WHY?**

This body seems to work harder shielding lawbreakers in our country illegally, than it does working to **protect** the citizens and legal residents that live here? **WHY?**

For example - HB 2932 prohibits the court from inquiring about a defendant's immigration status.

HB 2932 also allows the court to grant an extension for the criminal alien to further negotiate a plea deal, when the consequences of their illegal status is factored in to the sentencing. Isn't that the responsibility of the defendant's attorney BEFORE they appear in court?

It seems, that while being sentenced for a crime, Legislators hope to allow them to avoid the consequences of their actions by withholding information about their immigration status during sentencing – perhaps even avoiding mandatory deportation.

Worse yet – the sponsors of HB 2932 find that shielding these lawbreakers is such an urgent situation, they have included an emergency clause so that Oregon voters can't have the opportunity to challenge the Legislature's decision via citizen's veto referendum. **WHY?**

Oregon Legislators, *once again*, are going out of their way to shield those that have entered our country illegally, come to Oregon and have most likely gone on to commit multiple crimes like identity theft, driving without a license or insurance, working here illegally and more.

HB 2932 is **another bad bill** that puts the safety and protection of Oregonians at the back of the line – once again!

Most Oregonians and legal immigrants, ask – **WHY?**

Why do you seem to favor lawbreakers here illegally?

Who on *this committee* will stand up for **Oregonians and legal residents?**