



**Testimony of Kimberly McCullough, Policy Director
In Support of SB 854A – Tuition Equity Licenses
Senate Committee on Rules
May 13, 2019**

Chair Burdick and Members of the Committee:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon¹ supports SB 854A, which will remove barriers to professional licensing and careers for Oregon immigrants, so they can successfully apply their training and contribute to our communities.

Despite this state’s passage of numerous tuition equity laws, Oregon Dreamers still face barriers to professional licensing for careers ranging from teaching and healthcare services to barbers and cosmetology. These are individuals who grew up in Oregon, invested in Oregon, chose to pursue an education in Oregon, and should be allowed a fair chance to work in Oregon. They are integral members of our society, who want to build their practice, care for their families, volunteer in the community, and enrich this state.

SB 854A is crucial for ensuring that all graduates from Oregon’s educational programs—regardless of immigration status—are treated fairly by removing barriers to licensing. More specifically, this bill will promote fair treatment by directing professional licensing boards to accept an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number or other federally-issued identification number in lieu of a Social Security Number on applications for issuance or renewal of authorization to practice an occupation or profession in Oregon.

SB 854A will benefit our entire state by ensuring that all Oregonians can apply their training and education and contribute to Oregon’s community. This will make Oregon stronger, because capable, educated, and willing people will be given more access to meaningful opportunities to participate in and contribute to society.

¹ The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preservation and enhancement of civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 45,000 members and supporters statewide.

For these reasons, the ACLU of Oregon urges you to support SB 854A. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.