

June 26, 2023

RE: Support for City of Portland U Visa Certification Recommendations to PPB

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the Oregon Justice Resource Center (OJRC), I am writing to express our support for the City of Portland's recommendations to the Portland Police Bureau regarding U visa certifications, detailed in the June 2023 report "Protecting Undocumented Victims of Crime."

The corrective and preventative actions recommended by the Ombudsman's Office would make PPB policy more consistent with state law ORS 147.620. Moreover, the recommended actions would align PPB with the City of Portland's goal to create an inclusive and welcoming community.

We would like to emphasize that a U visa applicant's criminal history is irrelevant to the certification request and should never be the basis for denial of certification. While the effect of a U visa applicant's criminal history is relevant to the ultimate decision of whether the person will be granted a U visa, it is solely a question for the federal government.

We strongly encourage PPB to take swift corrective measures, and we look forward to a more consistent and just U visa certification process for future applicants.

Sincerely,



Erin L. McKee
Co-Director, Immigrant Rights Project
Oregon Justice Resource Center