



Centro Latino Americano

Dedicated to the empowerment of the Latino community of Lane County since 1972

Meeting with U.S. Senator Ron Wyden Dec. 12, 2016 at United Way of Lane County

Who We Are: Since 1972, Centro has been a safety net and backbone support to the Latino and immigrant community members who have come to make Lane County their home. Centro is the primary access point for basic-need services for Latinos in Lane County, specifically those with limited English proficiency. Centro programs provide direct social and behavioral health services, facilitate access to community resources, and advocate for the fair treatment of Latinos. Our services touch the lives of more than 600 families and more than 2,000 people annually. Many of our families have family members who are citizens and those who are undocumented. And 79% make less than \$2,000 a month. The services we provide are critical to these families.

Our Concerns: Senator Wyden, as you know, Oregon is home to about 391,000 immigrants, which is about the same number of people who live in your birthplace, Wichita, Kansas.

And as an agency that serves immigrants and Latinos, we are extremely concerned about the immigration and social services policies of the future president. They will have a detrimental impact on families who are here to work, attend school, and make a better life.

Immigrants in Oregon earned \$9.9 billion in 2014. These Oregonians contributed \$264.9 million to Medicare and \$1 billion into Social Security in 2014. (New American Economy)

Whatever anyone may think of their legal status, undocumented immigrants in Oregon also make a difference. These Oregonians pay \$83.1 million in state and local taxes and, through taxes on their wages, they contribute \$30.7 million to Medicare and \$129 to Social Security. (*American Immigrant Council and New American Economy*)

As you can see, there is an economic case to be made for fighting any policies that target immigrants.

We are concerned that he will withhold federal funds from sanctuary cities and jurisdictions.

We are concerned that he will end DACA and use the information of these individuals to identify desirable and undesirable immigrants.

We are concerned that nationals from Muslim countries will be mandated to register.

We are worried that he will end asylum relief for immigrants who are fleeing violence and persecution from Central American countries.

We are concerned that safety net services like the ones provided at Centro will lose funding and see an increase in need.

Finally, we are concerned that hate and discrimination toward immigrants, Latinos, Muslims, LGBTQ, and communities of color. We need you to stand up for the rights of all our neighbors.

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