



**Date:** June 8, 2017

**To:** Oregon House Committee on Rules

**From:** Emily McLain, Government Relations Oregon Education Association

**Re:** HB 3464

The Oregon Education Association represents over 44,000 members across the state of Oregon. Our members are educators working in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 public schools and community colleges. OEA's membership includes licensed teachers and specialists, classified/education support professionals (ESPs), community college faculty, retired educators, and student members.

OEA is proud to join in full support of HB 3464 and we urge the committee to support this legislation. This school year OEA has received countless requests for help and ongoing requests for guidance and clarity from educators on what to do if immigration enforcement officials come to a school, or if an immigration enforcement official asks about a student's or a family's immigration status. There is a lot of fear and confusion about this issue throughout schools in our state. Recent activities by immigration enforcement officials has generated fear and anxiety that could have detrimental impacts on the ability of students to learn and teachers to teach.

HB 3464 encourages all public bodies to adopt policies, for consistency and clarity statewide, on the collection of information and how to process requests of information by the federal government. We believe this clarity and consistency is needed for students to be able to focus and learn in school and help alleviate stress and concern that their families have.

This legislation also outlines that "The Attorney General shall publish model policies intended to limit, to the fullest extent possible consistent with state and federal law, immigration enforcement at public schools, public health facilities, courthouses, public shelters and other public facilities operated by a public body." We believe this is a sound policy and that model policies will provide much needed guidance and additional information for schools to access as they are faced with so many new questions and concerns regarding immigration issues. As deportations and interactions with immigration enforcement officials increase in Oregon, and become more visible daily we believe educators and other leaders in Oregon schools need more information and guidance.

Finally, HB 3464 continues by saying that "A public body shall, within six months of the effective date of this 2017 Act and every year thereafter, review the public body's confidentiality policies to ensure that the public body treats information concerning a person's citizenship or immigration status, and information." This step will further ensure that all schools and public bodies will engage in this issue and the questions and concerns that Oregonians have surrounding immigration issues and particularly in dealing with personal information.

HB 3464 is a small step to lift the fear and anxiety that Oregonians are experiencing around issues of immigration. Additionally, it will help provide needed clarity to educators and school district officials who are faced with various circumstances relating to immigration and personal information of the students and families in our schools. OEA urges you to support HB 3464.