

Submitter: John O Donoghue
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1594

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 1594.

Today public agencies in Oregon are faced with the challenge of how their members ought to act when encountering federal immigration officials in the course of their work. Given the increasingly aggressive and often brutal tactics that these federal officials are using and their tendency to ignore boundaries that would have been considered normal in previous times, it is vital that Oregon agencies have clear policies in place to guide their members through such encounters. This is complicated by the challenges public agencies face in having to reconcile federal immigration law with our own state's set of "sanctuary" laws.

This Bill, SP 1594, goes a long way towards addressing this issue. It aims for a certain efficiency in that it mandates that a single agency with the appropriate knowledge and competencies, The Office of Immigration and Refugee Advancement, develop and maintain a model policy on which any state agency could base its own.

Keeping the public safe, particularly in health care and educational settings, is of the utmost importance. Clear policies and procedures with which the employees of a public agency are very familiar will go a long way towards providing that safety.

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the work you do on our behalf. I urge you to vote in favor of moving this bill, SB 1594, out of committee and onto the senate floor where, hopefully, it will be passed into law.

Sincerely,

John O'Donoghue