



Representative Lamar Wise
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SB 1594 - OIRA Rulemaking Authority

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Chair and members of the committee, for the record, I'm Representative Lamar Wise, and I strongly support Senate Bill 1594. At its core, SB 1594 is about clarity, consistency, and public trust.

Across Oregon, public employees, teachers, librarians, caseworkers, city staff, are increasingly placed in difficult situations when federal immigration authorities show up at public facilities or request information. Too often, there is no clear guidance, and that uncertainty creates fear for families and risk for public servants who are simply trying to do their jobs lawfully and ethically. SB 1594 offers a practical solution.

This bill directs the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement to develop model administrative policies, not mandates, that public bodies can use to guide how they:

- Handle sensitive information related to immigration or citizenship status
- Respond appropriately and lawfully when federal immigration authorities enter public facilities

These model policies are required to include privacy protections, verification steps, escalation procedures, and documentation, and they must be fully consistent with state and federal law. That matters.

This bill does not change immigration law. It does not prevent lawful federal enforcement. And it does not require any public body to adopt a one-size-fits-all approach.

What it does is give local governments, school districts, and agencies a clear, lawful framework so frontline workers aren't left guessing in high-pressure situations, and so families can continue to access schools, libraries, and public services without fear or confusion.

The emergency clause reflects the reality many communities are already facing. The need for clear guidance isn't theoretical, it's happening now.

SB 1594 strengthens public trust, protects privacy, and supports public servants with the tools they need to act responsibly and lawfully.

For those reasons, I urge your support. Thank you.