



State of Oregon
Office of State Representative Ricki Ruiz
House District 50 Gresham & East Portland
900 Court St, NE, Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

Every day, families across Oregon go to work, send their children to school, access healthcare, and contribute to our communities. Many of these families have deep roots here but live with uncertainty about how federal immigration enforcement may affect their daily lives. Without clear guidance on how public bodies should interact with federal immigration authorities, local governments and community institutions can face confusion and families can experience unnecessary fear and risk.

SB 1594 directs the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement to develop and maintain model policies, standards, and procedures regarding the enforcement of federal immigration laws. Having statewide, thoughtfully developed standards will help ensure that local governments, school districts, community partners, and service providers have practicable, clear frameworks to follow. By lifting up best practices and centering the dignity and safety of immigrant residents, this bill supports both community trust and public safety.

As someone whose parents were farm workers and whose family navigated fear and uncertainty while trying to build a stable life here, I know firsthand how critical clarity, fairness, and communication are to families striving to belong. Senate Bill 1594 helps public bodies act consistently, protects individuals' rights, and underscores Oregon's values of inclusion and respect.

Moreover, I appreciate that this measure declares an emergency, meaning that once enacted, the model standards can take effect immediately, ensuring that communities do not have to wait months to adopt guidance that could reduce harm, confusion, and risk. The emergency clause reflects the urgency of these challenges and the Legislature's commitment to addressing them.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to support Senate Bill 1594. It represents a meaningful step toward ensuring that Oregon's public institutions are equipped with the tools they need to act transparently, consistently, and in the best interest of all residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

State Representative Ricki Ruiz