

Submitter:

Ryan Evans

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1538

I am testifying in support of this bill. I went back and forth on this, trying to think of the best way to put it into words, and I read other testimonies both in support and in opposition. There are those that speak of this bill preventing access to those here legally, but it seems to me it only expands access to include those who are already protected by the 14th amendment as the League of Women Voters cited from their testimony in support. Most of the opposition seems to be based on supporting legal migrants - that is well and good, but what we've seen with the current practices of federal immigration authorities is provably targeting people based more on their race and ethnicity, violating the federal Civil Rights Act, and then using that to try and determine immigration status after detaining individuals without charges and without due process, thus violating Oregon state law. What we have seen from current immigration authorities is the brutal enforcement of immigration policy through a narrow lens of what someone who is or isn't "legal" in America looks like, arresting residents at work, home, courthouses, and schools.

This bill expands access to programs offered by a school district to all residents of the district, prohibits discrimination in education based on citizenship status or immigration status, providing educational services to all of the children of our state. It also allows for school districts and related agencies to develop informed and united responses to the unprecedented brutality being exercised by current federal immigration agencies as they violate constitutional rights for the safety of the children that are in their care while they are at school. How dreadful an experience it might be to know that one's own or any other child is being torn from the safety and normalcy provided at school to be detained and flown states away for two and a half weeks - this recently happened after school to one five year old, and these agencies seek to expand IN to schools. This bill aims to expand educational access to ALL children in Oregon, and directs state agencies to present a framework for response to help protect children and adults while they are in or near our state's schools, and I support both of those aims. Oregon schools should be safe places, and I believe this bill helps work towards that belief.

Thank you.