



February 4, 2026

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,

My name is Ira Cuello-Martinez and I am providing testimony on behalf of PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union. We strongly support SB 1594.

Across Oregon federal immigration enforcement is showing up in places that should be safe and trusted: schools, clinics, and other public spaces. When that happens, families are terrified. And the truth is, staff are often left unsure of what they are allowed to do, what information they can share, and how to respond in a way that keeps families safe while following the law.

This lack of clarity creates confusion and uneven practices across the state. Some agencies do their best to protect families. Others freeze. Others over-share out of fear or uncertainty. And immigrant families pay the price for that inconsistency.

Oregon already has strong laws on the books. Our sanctuary statutes clearly limit cooperation with federal immigration enforcement and prohibit the collection or sharing of information unless required by law. Those laws reflect Oregon's values, but guardrails alone are not enough when people are facing real-time enforcement situations with no shared protocols.

SB 1594 fills that gap.

This bill authorizes the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement to do what it is uniquely positioned to do: develop clear, statewide protocols so public bodies know how to respond when federal agents appear, and how to protect sensitive data tied to national origin or immigration.

That clarity matters. It helps ensure that:

- Families feel safe accessing schools, health care, and public services
- Workers are not scared into silence
- And public employees are not left guessing in high-stakes moments

Just as importantly, SB 1594 is a practical solution. It sets a framework without creating new staffing mandates, new reporting requirements, or unfunded workloads. It respects capacity while still moving us forward.

For immigrant and refugee families, fear thrives in uncertainty. SB 1594 replaces that uncertainty with clarity, consistency, and compassion.

Oregon has said clearly that immigrant communities are welcomed here. This bill helps make that promise real — not just in statute, but in practice.

PCUN urges your support for SB 1594.

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