



Office of Representative Ricki Ruiz

House District 50

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

For the record, my name is Representative Ricki Ruiz, and I represent House District 50, serving Gresham and East Portland. I am proud to be a sponsor of Senate Bill 1594, and I respectfully urge the Committee's support.

SB 1594 addresses a clear and growing gap in how public bodies across Oregon respond to federal immigration enforcement activity. While Oregon's sanctuary laws are well-established, there is currently a lack of cohesion and clarity in how agencies operationalize those laws, particularly when responding to federal information requests or when federal immigration authorities appear at public facilities.

This inconsistency places frontline public employees in difficult positions and creates fear and uncertainty for immigrant and refugee communities. Even when agencies act in good faith and in compliance with the law, the absence of a shared framework undermines public trust. It leads to confusion about how sensitive personal information is handled.

SB 1594 provides a thoughtful and measured solution. The bill directs the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement to develop and maintain model administrative policies, standards, and procedures that public bodies may use when responding to federal immigration enforcement activity. These model policies focus on two critical areas: the management of information that could be used for federal immigration enforcement, and clear procedures for staff to follow when federal immigration authorities arrive at or request access to public facilities.

Importantly, the model policies must incorporate privacy protections, verification procedures, escalation protocols, documentation requirements, and consistency with both state and federal law. This approach protects public employees, reduces institutional risk, and provides communities with greater confidence that their information is handled lawfully and consistently.

SB 1594 does not change Oregon's sanctuary laws, nor does it prohibit lawful cooperation required under federal law. Instead, it builds clarity around existing practices and encourages consistency across public bodies by providing a shared framework agencies can rely on. By encouraging rather than mandating adoption of these model policies, the bill respects agency flexibility while promoting statewide alignment.

For immigrant and refugee families, consistency and clarity mean safety. When individuals interact with schools, health providers, and other public services, they should be able to do so without fear or confusion about how their information may be used.

I also appreciate the collaboration with the Governor's Office to ensure this bill aligns with existing practices and avoids unnecessary fiscal impact while still delivering meaningful guidance to agencies.

SB 1594 strengthens trust between communities and government, supports frontline workers with clear guidance, and reinforces Oregon's commitment to lawful, humane, and consistent governance.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for an **aye vote** on Senate Bill 1594.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ricki Ruiz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ricki Ruiz
State Representative
House District 50