



From the Offices of Representatives Ruiz, Valderrama, and Senator Jama

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Oregon Moves to Ensure Community Voice in Immigration Policy Updates

SALEM, Ore. – Today, the Oregon House approved [SB 1594](#) to ensure that the lived experiences of immigrant and refugee Oregonians help inform how the state updates guidance related to federal immigration enforcement.

Senate Bill 1594 directs the Oregon Department of Justice to formally collaborate with the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement (OIRA) when developing or revising model policies tied to Oregon’s longstanding sanctuary law.

“Right now, there is no single, shared framework guiding how public bodies respond when federal immigration authorities request information or appear at public facilities. As a result, agencies are often left to interpret these situations on their own,” said **Rep. Ruiz** (D - Gresham). “In my district of Gresham and East Portland, families have told me they hesitate to access schools, health clinics, or public services because they do not know how their information may be handled if federal immigration authorities become involved. Even when agencies act lawfully and in good faith, inconsistency undermines trust. This bill offers a practical solution.”

Passed nearly 40 years ago with bipartisan support, Oregon was the first state in the nation to pass a sanctuary law. The law was upheld at the ballot in 2018 because Oregonians recognize that racial profiling is wrong and that our state and local resources should go to helping keep Oregonians safe and helping our communities thrive.

“Sanctuary Promise ensures that state resources serve Oregonians and that communities here are protected from racial profiling,” said **Senate Majority Leader Jama** (D – E Portland, Boring & Damascus). “Bringing input from immigrant communities more directly into policymaking ensures the law functions well even as conditions change over time.”

Established in 2021, the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement works to promote fairness and belonging for immigrant and refugee communities across Oregon. The office advises state leadership, elevates community voice, strengthens partnerships, and helps shape policy aimed at improving access and opportunity.

The bill would strengthen transparency and accountability by formalizing collaboration between state agencies and the office charged with representing immigrant and refugee communities.

“The Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement (OIRA) is an essential resource for Oregon’s immigrant and refugee communities, helping individuals and families navigate the complex immigration system and access critical services,” said **Rep. Valderrama** (D-Outer East Portland). “With the passage of SB 1594, OIRA will now have a formal role in advising policymakers, ensuring that the voices and lived experiences of immigrant and refugee Oregonians are directly reflected in the development of policies that impact their lives.”

The bill now moves to the Governor for consideration.

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