



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Oregon Schools Are No Place for Discrimination Under Legislation Championed by Senate Democrats

Senate Bill 1538 ensures access to public education for all Oregon children

SALEM, OR – Quality education for every child is essential for a thriving, prosperous Oregon. Legislation passed today in the state Senate specifies that public schools may not discriminate based on a student’s immigration status or citizenship and the measure strengthens guidance for schools facing law enforcement requests involving immigration.

“Intensified threats from reckless and unaccountable federal agents demand our response,” said **Senator Lew Frederick (D – N & NE Portland)**, chief sponsor of the bill. “We’re bolstering state laws to ensure every child has access to education and every school is prepared for agents to arrive.”

Senate Bill 1538 adds immigration or citizenship status to categories that are protected from discrimination in state education law, such as race, religion, and disability.

Current state law also directs Oregon’s Attorney General to publish model policies that limit immigration enforcement at public schools, among other sensitive places. The measure passed today expands on that mandate, requiring the model policies for K - 12 schools:

- Be developed in consultation with the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement and school leaders
- Include a process for how to verify a warrant or court order involving immigration
- Encourage school leaders to consult with legal counsel before responding to immigration enforcement efforts
- Be circulated to employees of all school districts, education districts, and public charter schools

Senate Bill 1538 passed in a vote of 23 to 7, with 5 Republicans joining Senate Democrats in support. The legislation now moves to the Oregon House of Representatives.

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