



## **OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS**

Salem, Oregon  
Oregon State Legislature

### **PRESS RELEASE**

June 16, 2021

CONTACT: Amanda Kraus, 503-986-1074

[Amanda.Kraus@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Amanda.Kraus@oregonlegislature.gov)

### **Oregon Senate Votes to Create the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement**

SALEM – The Oregon Senate passed Senate Bill 778 today, a bill championed by Senator Kayse Jama (D-East Portland).

Senator Jama is the first former refugee member of the Oregon Senate and has been an active member of his community in Senate District 24 and throughout Oregon, contributing and informing programs to support immigrants and refugees. He brought that same skillset to the Oregon Legislature, which – among other legislation – has actively supported vulnerable Oregonians and promoted opportunities for future success and positive outcomes.

Senate Bill 778 appropriates General Fund dollars to what will be the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement, which will work in partnership with existing programs to advocate for immigrant and refugee services for the betterment of these populations across Oregon.

“This bill means so much more to me than an ‘Aye’ vote,” said Senator Jama. “Senate Bill 778 offers hope and creates opportunity for a significant population of individuals who contribute immensely to our society. Immigrants and refugees are essential to our state but face unearned hardship and barriers. This bill will help to remove those obstacles and will acknowledge the value of these individuals in our society.”

“Oregon is my home. It’s home to many immigrants and refugees who reside here. We deserve what everyone else deserves – a chance. These individuals have spirit and resilience, and they want to succeed – we should support that. By passing Senate Bill 778 today, we have offered that support,” added Senator Jama.

Senator Jama went on to acknowledge his staff, Kien Truong who was instrumental in the bill’s development and passage and is an immigrant from Vietnam – who knows firsthand how this bill will support communities across this great state.

Senate Bill 778 passed 28-1 and now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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