



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Senate takes action to protect privacy rights

HB 3464 is a response to federal immigration raids all over the state

SALEM – A series of federal immigration raids in Oregon has caused terror in several communities, prompting the Oregon Legislature to take action to protect immigrant families. The Oregon Senate voted today to send a bill that will strengthen privacy protections for vulnerable populations to Gov. Kate Brown for her signature.

House Bill 3464 – which passed by a 16-13 vote on the Senate floor today – strengthens Oregon’s privacy protections by prohibiting release of identifying information by government agencies to the federal government, unless compelled by a court or other law.

Under the bill, the Attorney General will be required to provide guidance to all public bodies about interacting with immigration enforcement activities. All public bodies are encouraged to implement the guidance and update their confidentiality policies in accordance with state and federal laws.

“It is unthinkable that people living in this state would be living in fear simply because of their citizenship status,” said Sen. Ginny Burdick (D-Portland), who carried the bill in the Senate. “This will create consistency statewide in how government agencies respond to federal requests for information. It will provide greater stability for immigrant families in our state, who now will have less to fear.”

The legislation comes in response to recent Immigrations and Customs Enforcement raids throughout the state. The bill encourages all public bodies to adopt policies on collecting information and processing information requests from the federal government. It is designed to promote statewide consistency and clarity regarding those policies.

Fear of being deported often discourages immigrants from reporting crimes, that sometimes are horrific. This means that more dangerous offenders are out on the streets because victims are too fearful to report what has happened to them. That same fear also can deter some families from sending their children to school. To have a healthy, thriving society, an educated populace and adequate public safety are paramount. This bill will help to ease some of the fear that is detrimentally affecting some Oregon communities, particularly those with large immigrant populations.

House Bill 3464 now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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