

IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

POLICY BRIEF FOR THE 2019 LEGISLATURE

Last updated March 19, 2019



Protect Immigrants' Rights

Fairness, equality, liberty, and dignity for all

Immigrants living in Oregon are part of our families, communities, workplaces, and places of worship. They are our neighbors, friends, and local business owners. Oregon's immigrants join the long American tradition of coming here in search of a better life, freedom, and opportunity. Immigrants play a vital role in our state's culture and economy, and they've made our communities stronger for generations.

Shared values like fairness, equality, liberty, and dignity for all people are part of what connect us as Oregonians. The Oregon Legislature has

long promoted inclusiveness and equity through thoughtful and forward-thinking policies that make our state better for everyone who lives here.

Thirty-two years ago Oregon passed the nation's first "sanctuary" law with nearly-unanimous support of Republicans and Democrats. When that anti-discrimination law faced a referendum on the November 2018 statewide ballot, an overwhelming majority of Oregon voters – nearly 65 percent – chose to keep the law in place. It is clear that Oregonians agree that our state should be a place where people are welcomed and treated fairly.



BILLS TO SUPPORT

HB 2015

Chief sponsors: Rep. Hernandez, Rep. Alonso León, Sen. Manning Jr., Rep. McClain, Rep. Roblan

HB 2932

Chief sponsors: Rep. Williamson, Rep. Hernandez, Sen. Manning Jr., Rep. Power, Sen. Dembrow

SB 854

Chief sponsors: Sen. Manning Jr., Rep. Hernandez

SB 859

Chief sponsors: Sen. Dembrow, Rep. Hernandez

ABOUT

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon, an affiliate of the national ACLU, is a non-profit and nonpartisan organization with more than 50,000 members and supporters in Oregon.

We defend and advance the civil liberties and civil rights of all people through work in the courts, in the legislature, and in communities.

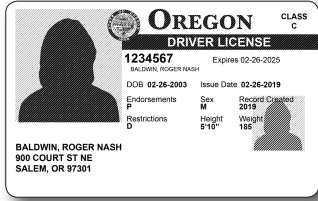
info@aclu-or.org



DRIVER LICENSES

✓ HB 2015

Chief sponsors: Rep. Hernandez, Rep. Leon, Sen. Manning Jr, Rep. McLain, Rep. Roblan



The Equal Access to Roads Act makes our state safer and more fair for everyone by allowing all Oregon residents – regardless of citizenship status – access to a standard driver license once they meet the normal age, competency, payment, and insurance requirements. This bill also ensures that a person’s information is secured and not shared with the federal government and includes anti-discrimination language so people aren’t targeted for having a standard license (instead of a Real ID license).

The ability to drive legally is a core necessity for many Oregon families as people need to take their kids to school, commute to work, and take care of family and neighbors in need. Without access to driver licenses, many immigrants without legal status are in an impossible position: either choose to drive without a license and risk arrest and deportation or choose not to drive and be unable to provide for their family or be active members in their communities.

TUITION EQUITY

✓ SB 854

Chief sponsors: Sen. Manning Jr, Rep. Hernandez

✓ SB 859

Chief sponsors: Sen. Dembrow, Rep. Hernandez



All students who grow up in Oregon and graduate from Oregon high schools, including undocumented students, deserve a fair chance to pursue higher education and certificate programs. In 2013, the Legislature passed a tuition equity bill to offer in-state undergraduate tuition to all students who attend and graduate Oregon high schools.

- SB 589 expands tuition equity to include graduate programs, so that

all Oregonians can reach their full potential.

- Undocumented students still face barriers with professional licensing for careers ranging from teaching and healthcare services to barbers and cosmetology. SB 854 ensures successful graduates are able to access the licensing they have earned so they can successfully apply their training and contribute to our communities.

COURTHOUSE SAFETY

✓ HB 2932

Chief sponsors: Rep. Williamson, Rep. Hernandez, Sen. Manning Jr, Rep. Power, Sen. Dembrow



This bill would make it so people in Oregon courts do not have to talk about their immigration status in open court and would ensure that judges play a role in fully informing defendants about their rights under the 6th Amendment.

Courthouses should be a “sensitive location” where immigration enforcement is disallowed like hospitals and schools. Fear of deportation is stopping immigrants from reporting crimes and participating in court proceedings.

Federal immigration agents at our county courthouses have a chilling effect on access to justice.

People also have a right to be fully informed about the potential immigration consequences of a plea agreement or conviction. Judges play an important role in ensuring that defendants are advised about potential immigration consequences of their case and have an opportunity to obtain additional legal advice.