

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Measure 110 Implementation.

Oregon Student Association joins Latino Network in support of SJM1 urging the U.S. Congress to enact legislation prohibiting ICE enforcement actions in sensitive locations to protect and cultivate a learning environment for all students, regardless of immigration status.

The ups and downs during the college years are a formative period for students. For many, college is the first time that they will be away from home. During this period, students will discover new interests, make meaningful connections with peers, form study groups to cram the night before an exam, or study abroad. Codifying ICE sensitive locations policy would ensure that all students are able to meaningfully participate in the college experience without fear of detainment or deportation.

What is more is that undocumented students, many of whom were brought to the U.S. as children, must climb a number of legal and financial barriers before stepping foot on a college campus. This includes ineligibility for FAFSA and in-state tuition in most states. As a result, undocumented students often take more years to graduate, accumulate more college debt, and gain less "professional" work experience compared to their fellow peers.

According to a 2020 report from the New American Economy, a bipartisan think tank based in New York, there are an estimated 450,000 undocumented students currently pursuing degrees and training at community colleges, four-year universities, and trade schools. In other words, the student population at risk of detainment and deportation accounts for about two percent of all students enrolled in U.S. institutions of higher education.

The Oregon Student Association urges the Oregon Legislature to call on the U.S. Congress to codify internal ICE sensitive locations policy to cultivate the conditions for learning and exploration.