

Submitter: Anthony Salm  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1119  
Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee:

My Name is Tony Salm, and I am a longtime educator in the gloriously multicultural and multilingual community of Woodburn.

I can speak firsthand to the very real concerns that SB 1119 is intended to address.

The dichotomy between “illegal” and “legal” is never as clear-cut and concrete as some have depicted. Many families of longtime, law-abiding residents are of mixed status, with some members of those families being native-born US citizens, while others are going through the lengthy, costly, and daunting process of legalizing their status.

It is neither helpful nor productive to engender a climate in which entire families live in fear, if not for themselves, then for close family members. If we do not stand for keeping families together, then what DO we stand for?

While we do not have the power at the state level to alter the misguided and punitive immigration policies of the administration in Washington DC, we must do everything we can to make it clear that Oregon employers may not use immigration status either as a retaliatory weapon, nor as a tool to prevent employees for exercising their rights under our labor laws.

The federal immigration authorities will do what they are going to do, and the policies that authorize their actions must be pushed back against in other contexts and forums. However, at a level that you in state government have the power to control, SB 1119 is a powerful reminder to employers that no form of bullying or harassment based on immigration status either of employees or their family members will be tolerated.

This is why I strongly support the passage of SB 1119.