

April 2, 2025

Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Bonham, and members of the committee,

My name is Brooke Hill and I am writing on behalf of Oregon AFSCME. We are the third largest labor union in the state, representing more than 39,000 workers in public and private sectors. AFSCME stands in strong support of SB 1119 with the -1 amendment and our vibrant immigrant community in Oregon.

SB 1119 makes it unlawful practice for an employer to engage in unfair immigration practices in the workplace. The -1 amendment strengthens the language, including threatening to contact immigration services or taking action against an employee because of their immigration status (or perceived immigration status). This bill provides much needed protections for our immigrant community, who contribute significantly to the economy and are an integral part of the Oregon workforce. They are our neighbors, colleagues, and friends who deserve the same protections under the law and to work without fear of retaliation. These protections also help clarify how immigration enforcement can interact with employees at their workplace, providing peace of mind and instilling a sense of confidence for immigrants at work. All people deserve dignity and safety at their place of employment, regardless of immigration status, and to come to work without living in fear, constantly worrying about themselves or their family members. Our state is consistently at the forefront of protections for immigrants, and this bill would continue that important work at a crucial time for our nation.

At a time when many other states across the country are experiencing abrupt work stoppages and increased fear and confusion around immigration policy, the time is now for Oregon to stand by our immigrant community and increase protections at the state level. SB 1119 is a significant step in the right direction.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. Oregon AFSCME urges you to support SB 1119 with the -1 amendment. Everyone who calls this country home deserves equal protections under the law, and should not have to live in fear when they come to work every day.

Sincerely,  
Brooke Hill  
AFSCME Political Team