



April 30, 2025

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Wallan and Chotzen, and members of the committee,

My name is Ira Cuello-Martinez and I am the Policy Advocacy Director at PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union. PCUN aims to empower farmworkers and working Latinx families to improve their working and living conditions through community building, organizing, and policy advocacy.

On behalf of our members, I am providing testimony in strong support of SB 1191 which updates existing laws to ensure that informing someone of their civil or constitutional rights is not considered a criminal act. The bill reaffirms a fundamental principle of justice: that informing individuals of their constitutional and civil rights should never be treated as a crime.

In our work, we have witnessed firsthand the fear and confusion that many immigrants face when interacting with law enforcement. The ability to know and understand one's rights is essential to ensuring fair treatment under the law.

Know Your Rights trainings plays a crucial role in empowering individuals with the knowledge necessary to navigate interactions with law enforcement and government officials. These trainings help ensure that individuals can exercise their legal protections confidently and safely, reducing the risk of unjust treatment and strengthening trust between communities and legal institutions. Criminalizing the dissemination of such knowledge discourages essential education and weakens public confidence in the justice system.

SB 1191 provides much-needed clarity by ensuring that informing individuals of their rights is not misinterpreted as obstruction or interference with law enforcement.

Ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their immigration status, have access to critical legal information strengthens community trust in our legal system and fosters a more equitable society.

We urge you to pass SB 1191 and reaffirm Oregon's commitment to protecting civil rights and upholding justice for all. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ira Cuello-Martinez
Policy Advocacy Director
PCUN