



VOICES UNITED.  
OPPORTUNITY REIMAGINED.

April 8, 2021

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SJM 1

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee,

Our Children Oregon's (OCO) mission is to be a voice and force for the common good for all Oregon children, ensuring all children have the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential. OCO is the result of the merger between two historic Oregon non-profits: The Children's Trust Fund of Oregon and Children First for Oregon. We elevate data and lived experience to prioritize children and center communities. We continue to connect a community of 115 advocates, coalitions, and organizations through The Children's Agenda, a legislative agenda championing equitable state legislative policies and shared investments to improve the lives of Oregon's children and their families.

**SJM 1 Codifying Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)'s "Sensitive Locations" Policy is a priority issue on the 2021 Children's Agenda.** SJM 1 asks Congress to make the Sensitive Locations Policy federal law to ensure that enforcement actions do not occur on sensitive locations like schools, places of worship, health care centers, and community activities.

Immigration arrests and enforcement operations by ICE separates families, undermines community safety, and terrorizes immigrants, refugees, and communities of color. Data show that ICE agents regularly execute enforcement actions at sensitive locations. These actions traumatize children and families who believed they were at locations that were deemed safe to frequent. Executing enforcement actions at these locations creates a distrust in local law enforcement and other governmental agencies.

Undocumented adults, children, families, and students across the nation are at risk for sudden deportation and removal from the United States. In Oregon, 1 in 12 children are U.S Citizens living with at least one undocumented family member. The forced separation of children from their parents has lasting impacts on children's growing brains, especially

## The Children's Agenda

*is a broad slate of equitable investments and policy solutions to meet the holistic needs of Oregon children, youth, and their families.*



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during early childhood. Even the stress caused by the fear of being separated from parents puts children's growth and development at risk.

SJM1 calls on Congress to protect families across the United States by codifying ICE "sensitive locations" policy. SMJ 1 will ensure that individuals, families, and community members will not be at risk of deportation at protected locations. Families should not live in constant fear of detainment or deportation. We must protect immigrant families from further traumatization and stress.

We urge you to support SMJ 1 to protect undocumented children and families across the United States and call on the U.S Congress to make this policy federal law.

From the Our Children Oregon Team,

Chis Coughlin, Policy, Advocacy, and Engagement Director  
Raquel Salazar, Policy and Communications Intern  
Jenifer Wagley, Executive Director

*View the 2021 Children's Agenda at [www.ourchildrenoregon.org/2021-childrens-agenda](http://www.ourchildrenoregon.org/2021-childrens-agenda)*