

2024 Legislative Agenda



Lutheran Community Services Northwest believes that advocating for thoughtful public policy is an important way to carry out our mission of Health, Justice and Hope. The Washington, Oregon and Idaho legislatures are currently in session. Here are the bills in Washington and Oregon that we are monitoring and in some cases may support with written or verbal testimony. In Idaho we are staying in touch with legislators and watching for opportunities to advocate. We encourage you to get involved at your own comfort level. For questions, please contact Salah Ansary, LCSNW's Senior Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs, at sansary@lcsnw.org

State of Washington

[House Bill 1889](#): Allowing persons to receive professional licenses and certifications regardless of immigration or citizenship status.

[House Bill 2006](#): Strengthening the right of court interpreters for non-English speakers.

[House Bill 2059](#) and [Senate Bill 5799](#): Regulating halal foods sales – consumer protections.

[House Bill 2368](#) and [Senate Bill 6245](#): Giving authority to the state Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA) to assist asylum seekers and other non-traditional refugees.

[House Bill 2023](#): Improving meaningful access to elections by increasing language assistance.

[Senate Bill 5995](#): Creating a professional license for language interpreters and translators.

[Senate Bill 6157](#): Allowing those with DACA status to be eligible for state Civil Service jobs and receive advantages for bilingual/multilingual skills.

[Senate Bill 5631](#) : Requiring state agencies to identify online all programs and services accepting applicants with DACA status.

[Senate Bill 5821](#): Establishing a uniform standard for insurance coverage of audio-only telemedicine services.

[House Bill 1929](#): Supporting young adults following inpatient behavioral health treatment.

[House Bill 1939](#): Adopting a social work licensure compact (more streamlined credentialing and hiring across state lines).

[Senate Bill 5850](#): Supporting students who are chronically absent and at risk of not graduating high school.

[Senate Bill 6251](#) : Coordinating regional behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention services.

[House Bill 1618](#): Eliminating the statute of limitations for childhood sexual abuse claims in civil courts for all intentional actions after June 6, 2024.

[House Bill 2076](#): Strengthening legal language for human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

[Senate Bill 5937](#): Supporting crime victims and witnesses by promoting victim-centered, trauma-informed responses in the legal system.

State of Oregon

[House Bill 4002](#): Making possession of small amounts of drugs, like fentanyl, meth and heroin, a Class C misdemeanor punishable by 30 days in jail, a \$1,250 fine, or both. Cited individuals would be offered drug treatment with misdemeanor dismissed upon completion. Also gives law enforcement more power to prosecute dealers. (Measure 110 reform proposal by Democratic lawmakers.)

[House Bill 4036](#): Making possession of drugs, like fentanyl, meth and heroin, a Class A misdemeanor punishable by jail time of one year unless completing drug treatment. Misdemeanor is expunged upon completion. (Measure 110 reform proposal by Republican lawmakers.)

[House Bill 4085](#): Directing DHS to give grants to help noncitizens get lawful immigration status.

[House Bill 4159](#): Requiring the state Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement to contract with entities to provide asylum seekers with case management, short-term and long-term support services.

[Senate Bill 1537](#): Establishing the Housing Accountability and Production Office (HAPO) to boost housing production and affordability in Oregon.

[Senate Bill 1532](#) – Directing the Department of Education to develop and implement a statewide education plan for students who are asylum seekers, refugees or any other immigrant.

[Senate Bill 1533](#): Increasing the translation of voter's pamphlets from 5 to 10 most commonly spoken languages in each county, other than English.

[House Bill 2204](#): Created a two-year restorative justice grant program in the 2021 session. This program needs advocacy for continued funding in the 2024 short session. The funding helps support our Portland Community Justice Partnership with the Portland Police Bureau.