



Establishing State-wide Policy for Washington's Economy

SB 5689, sponsored by Senator Lisa Wellman:

- Recognizes the Role of Immigrants in the Workforce
- Protects the Rights of all our Residents



Washington has a thriving economy that relies on a diverse workforce.

The State has a personal stake in ensuring Washington remains a place where the rights of all residents are maintained and protected in order to keep Washington working.



SB 5689 establishes a Keep Washington Working Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee is in the Department of Commerce to:

Develop strategies with private sector businesses, labor, and immigrant advocacy organizations to support current and future industries across the state;

Conduct research on methods to strengthen career pathways for immigrants and create and enhance partnerships with projected growth industries;

Support business and agriculture leadership, civic groups, government, and immigrant advocacy organizations in a statewide effort to sustain the agriculture industry with a predictable and stable workforce;

Recommend approaches to improve Washington's ability to attract and retain immigrant business owners that provide new business and trade opportunities.

Directs the attorney general to develop model policies that limit immigration enforcement to the fullest extent possible to ensure public facilities remain safe and accessible to all Washington residents.

Requires state agencies to review their confidentiality policies and identify and implement any changes necessary to ensure that information collected is necessary to perform agency duties and is not used, or disclosed, for any other purpose.

Establishes that no state agency or department, including law enforcement, may use state resources for, nor make any database available for, any unconstitutional laws, rules, or policies that target Washington residents on the basis of race, religion, immigration, or citizenship status, or national or ethnic origin.

Directs state and local law enforcement to not use resources for immigration enforcement activities, such as making arrests based on civil immigration warrants and performing other functions of an immigration officer, such as inquiring into immigration or citizenship status.

Nearly one million Washingtonians are immigrants. That is one out of every seven people.

We are a state with a considerable immigrant population, and immigrants comprise over 16% of our workforce.