

To: Oregon House Judiciary Committee Members
From: Cathy A. Howell, 777 Cottage St. Apt. B, Salem, OR 97301
Re: HB 4121
Date: February 2, 2020

I am writing today in support of HB4121. I have been involved with the issue of immigration and participated in the campaign to save our sanctuary law by urging Oregonians to vote against last year's Measure 105. I have talked to clergy and other citizens in The Dalles about the problems with the NORCOR jail both because of the situation of the immigrant detainees there and the fact that the local counties are violating our sanctuary law by allowing ICE access to detain immigrants in a local facility.

I see two problems with the jail and their contract with ICE. One is that this contract violates the law we citizens of Oregon upheld in our vote last year. Second, by moving detainees from the facility in Tacoma to The Dalles, ICE makes their lives much more difficult. It is harder to connect to their families or to their legal help when they are so far away.

Local citizens in the Columbia Gorge counties have met with the NORCOR board and their County Commissioners about this. It seems the major problem in divesting of this contract is the lack of local resources to maintain the jail without it. I believe that HB 4121 will allow the board and the county governments involved to receive some state resources that will allow them to end the contract and some help with a longer term strategy to fund their jail and put in on the road to fulfilling another promise we Oregonians have made - to provide restorative justice and not just punishment to people convicted of crimes.