

Dear Oregon House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to you in support of House Bill 4121. This bill is long overdue. Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facility (NORCOR) violates Oregon's Sanctuary Law passed in 1987 and reaffirmed in 2018 by the voters.

Besides violating our Sanctuary Law, the presence of ICE at NORCOR costs taxpayers more. NORCOR was overbuilt so that it could rent out jail space to other counties such as my own county, Benton Co., and thus reduce local costs. The contract with ICE costs NORCOR more than it receives and decreases the reserves needed for other programs such as mental health services and education - programs that can help our goal of true restorative justice.

I urge you to support this bill and in doing so reduce the fear among immigrant families, provide much needed services to the incarcerated and honor the wishes of the voters of being a Sanctuary State.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Melinda Sayavedra

Corvallis, Oregon