

Dear Sirs,

February 1, 2020

As an Oregonian and resident of The Dalles, I've been aware of a particular challenge that our Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facility (NORCOR) has faced. I humbly ask you to consider HB 4121 as a resolution for all.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement's presence in Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facility (NORCOR) increases fear among immigrant community members in the Gorge and in the State of Oregon as a whole.

A public jail detaining people for ICE violates Oregon's Sanctuary Law that was passed in 1987 and that Oregon voters reaffirmed in 2018 by voting down Measure 105 which attempted to repeal this law.

NORCOR is a four-county public jail that was overbuilt for its needs with the goal of renting beds to reduce local costs. The ICE contract does not meet that goal because it costs NORCOR more to detain people for ICE than it receives from the contract. We must stop using local resources to subsidize ICE activities in our state. Regular detainees can serve for the length of 7-14 days in comparison to the 2-3-year pattern that the ICE detainees have experienced. NORCOR is a jail and was not built to function as a sustainable prison.

NORCOR was not designed to meet our community's goals of restorative justice and has limited space for programs, education, or mental health services. Its current revenue and reserves are insufficient to meet the infrastructure and operating needs it is facing. This bill would allow NORCOR to get out from under its current ICE contract and free up the infrastructure for the Gorge to move toward programs, education, and services for the community.

I thank you for your time, consideration and commitment to represent Oregonians with the values that we cherish as a House Judiciary Committee member.

Sincerely,

Ramona Harwood