

HB 4143 - RE COURSE Act

Committee Testimony

Chair Bowman, Vice Chairs Elmer and Pham, members of the committee. My name is Dacia Grayber, State Representative for House District 28. I'm here today in strong support of HB 4143, which will give Oregon an important tool to ensure that congressionally authorized funds—our tax dollars—reach our communities as intended.

It's hard to believe that's something I have to say on the record, but unfortunately, it's no longer a foregone conclusion.

This administration's refusal to follow the law has devastating consequences for Oregonians. Over the last year, I've received panicked calls and emails from students who've heard that their scholarships won't be funded. Community organizations who have to lay off staff because they don't know if they'll have funds next year. Families who can't eat without SNAP benefits. My district is home to OHSU, which scrambled to respond last year when the federal government announced it would terminate federal research funding for medical institutions that provide gender-affirming care. This jeopardized over \$400 million in

federal research awards—money for cancer research, vaccine development, and public health initiatives.

While the Oregon DOJ has successfully recouped this funding through litigation, there's little Oregon can do to push back against a non-compliant executive branch. Under a federal administration that has repeatedly ignored court orders, we must be better prepared should they illegally withhold funds.

HB 4143 is a measured, practical response. This is a rule-of-law approach to holding the federal government accountable for investing funds *already approved by congress* into our communities. The steps and safeguards described by my colleagues ensure that the bill will only apply in exceptional cases. It does not escalate a fight with the administration; it simply gives us a tool to respond, hopefully one we never have to use.

I'm proud that Oregon refuses to bend to this administration's anti-immigrant, anti-working families policy agenda. Unfortunately, our federal funding will continue to be targeted because of it. I would rather we be prepared.

I strongly urge your support for HB 4143. Thank you.