

February 3, 2026

Testimony in support of bill HB 4138: Law Enforcement Accountability and Visibility Act (LEAVA)
House Committee on Judiciary

Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Chotzen and Wallen, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Madeleine, my pronouns are she/her and I am the Environmental Justice Program Coordinator at APANO Communities United Fund (CUF), a culturally-specific organization that unites Asians and the communities who stand with us to build power, develop leaders and advance equity through organizing, advocacy, community development and cultural work. **I am here to express support for HB 4138** to ensure that all law enforcement actions in Oregon are more transparent, visible, and accountable through officer identification, a firewall between local and federal government, and legal remedies for violations.

Working at APANO, I receive news every day of federal agents attacking our communities. A man abducted at a gas station nearby in front of his wife and kids. An employee's neighbor mistakenly taken by ICE and wrongly detained. Terrified alerts of border patrol roaming neighborhoods. A missing person with a serious kidney issue taken by agents and whose whereabouts was unknown for weeks. We get questions and we ask these same questions as we scramble to find the answers: Who are these agents, where have they taken friends and neighbors, can anyone help, are the people taken even still alive? The horror of what's happening in our streets feels like a civil war. A government violently and inhumanely turned against its own people. We need to hold law enforcement accountable to their actions and the unacceptable violations of the law happening to our left and right. We also need to know who is on the side of Oregon's people, distinguishing local law enforcement from federal ICE agents.

Most of these stories involve unidentifiable agents in masks who prey on people in public and private spaces without showing any form of ID or warrant. Again, who are these agents? How do we know they are actual agents instead of impersonators conducting hate crimes? One situation recently involved racist flyers threatening violence that were left on a loved ones doorstep from unknown sources. We need to know who is behind the mask, whether federal, state, or local enforcement officers or criminal impersonators and they must be held accountable for their actions in court without exception. We cannot allow them to hide.

I am on the ground and in the community as the Environmental Justice Program Coordinator at APANO, trying to provide historically underserved people with benefits from renewable energy projects so they can save money and take agency in mitigating the extreme impacts of climate change. Yet I cannot effectively do my job and engage people in this exciting work when communities are being terrorized daily. Community members do not feel safe in public spaces, do

not want to share their information for programs that could benefit them, do not trust others and rightfully so. I feel the same way in this world right now. When people feel threatened and hunted, how can they do anything but think of surviving one day to the next? We need transparency. We need to strengthen public trust with real action from you that shows Oregon stands for the people of this state, not the outside forces from an oppressive administration.

As a community-based organization working for our communities, our efforts are currently reactive. We react to new fires each day, the crises people share with us, the needs of communities as they arise. We witness the deep physical, mental, and emotional harm that perpetrators cause, whether they are federal agents or impersonators, and do our best to support and care. While the current state of society necessitates reactive work on-the-ground, you have the opportunity to be proactive and set the foundations for a better future.

This is why **I strongly urge you to vote YES to HB 4138: Law Enforcement Accountability and Visibility Act (LEAVA)**. Don't let the federal government unconstitutionally attack our civil rights and liberties using Oregon resources and data. Make law enforcement officers reveal their faces without masks and their name, badges, and agency IDs. Protect the people you serve.

Thank you,

Madeleine Gefke
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