



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 4, 2026

To: [Rep. Jason Kropf](#), **Chair**, [House Committee on Judiciary](#)

Re: [HB 4138](#) – Relating to limitations on actions of public employees – **SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports HB 4138 based on our belief in a criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, transparent, and that fosters trust at all stages. This bill specifically addresses the issues of “transparency” and “trust” by the establishment of identifiability requirements and facial covering prohibitions for law enforcement. It also limits the actions of public employees when working with US or out-of-state law enforcement and creates a cause of actions when the rules are violated.

We believe that recent federal immigration actions within our state and across the nation reinforce the urgent need for this legislation. Daily reports of masked federal agents without proper identification arresting and detaining immigrants, often regardless of citizenship status, creates an environment of fear and intimidation, increasing the risk of violence and significantly decreasing public confidence in all levels of government.

We acknowledge the fact that amendments to HB 4138 may be needed, and we leave it to others to comment on various legal aspects. From our perspective we appreciate the level of detail in the policy requirements laid out in the bill and applaud specific language regarding transparency, accountability, and public trust. We are happy to see inclusion of institutions of higher learning in the public bodies that are prohibited from voluntarily assisting a federal or out-of-state law enforcement agency and also the requirement of a memorandum of understanding before a public body can participate in a joint task force with a federal or out-of-state law enforcement agency.

We support the Causes of Action section of HB 4138, based on our belief in an individual’s right to bring a civil action against those who undermine the rights guaranteed in the US and Oregon Constitutions. However, we would urge that the burdensome pathway of civil action not be the sole remedy for individuals faced with discrimination and violations of due process during this time of extreme federal overreach.

We urge your support for HB 4138 and thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Klein".

Barbara Klein
Acting President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marge Easley".

Marge Easley
Action Committee Member