

My name is Katherine Watkins and I support HB 4114 with the amendment.

I'm a 51-year-old mixed Black woman, autistic with ADHD and cPTSD, and I teach 11th and 12th grade English online, working from home for MEWA charter school. I'm also the mother of a brilliant 23-year-old Black autistic son. I know what accountability gaps look like when they play out in real life because I've lived them. I left traditional classroom teaching after workplace discrimination, and that experience taught me what happens when people in authority face no real consequences for violating rights.

HB 4114 matters because right now, and if federal agents violate your Fourth Amendment rights by forcing entry into your home, therapy office, your child's school, or your place of worship without a proper judicial warrant, you have no recourse. You can't sue. You can't get compensation. There's no accountability. Administrative warrants authorize arrests in public spaces. Only judicial warrants signed by judges authorize forced entry into private spaces. That constitutional distinction exists for a reason, and HB 4114 protects it.

I need to know I can sit in my home without my doors and windows being bashed in and being dragged out like a victim of a third world country. I need to know that I and any member of my family will not be kidnapped. I need to know we will not be illegally shipped off to another state or country, waiting for my family to find the resources to get us back home. I need to know that we don't have to produce papers for random untrained people to accept that we are actually citizens here from generations, and not be called "fucking bitches" or threatened with erasure for raising our voices. I need to know I will not be unnecessarily traumatized for existing in the country I was born in, contributing as a teacher of 28 years.

As an autistic person who requires environmental control to function, as a parent of an autistic young adult, as someone who's spent 16 years in therapy addressing complex trauma, I understand that the fight now is because if federal agents can force their way into my home, my son's educational spaces, or my therapist's office without proper judicial authority, we have no protection. The bill's enhanced protections for people with disabilities, people with mental health conditions, vulnerable populations - these aren't abstract civil liberties. These are the actual people who face the most danger when authority operates without oversight.

Everyone deserves to know who's entering their home and under what legal authority. Agents who follow the Constitution have nothing to fear from this bill. It only creates consequences when agents violate our rights. Oregon can face legal challenges protecting Fourth Amendment rights the same way we've faced them protecting healthcare and gun safety.

I urge the committee to vote yes on HB 4114.

Katherine Watkins  
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