

House Bill 4138

Written Testimony – Support

83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2026 Regular Session

Submitted on behalf of myself

Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Tina Marin. I am submitting this written testimony in strong support of House Bill 4138.

I support HB 4138 not only as a matter of public policy, but as a matter of safety, accountability, and lived experience. I have worked across political lines to draft my own bipartisan legislative proposal focused on constitutional protections, transparency, and keeping families and communities safe. The foundation of that proposal—and of HB 4138—is simple: government authority must be exercised openly, lawfully, and with clear accountability.

One reason I strongly support HB 4138 is deeply personal. Because of the color of my skin, I do not have to worry that I will be personally targeted during law enforcement interactions. However, my children, and many other children in our communities, do not share that same sense of safety. Their safety should not depend on officers concealing their identities or operating without visible accountability.

The safety of my children—or anyone else's—should never come at the cost of anonymous authority. When law enforcement officers are acting lawfully and following proper procedures, there is no justification for concealing identity. Transparency protects the public, and it also protects officers. Hidden identity does not create safety; it creates fear, confusion, and conditions where misconduct can occur.

HB 4138 carefully balances accountability with legitimate law enforcement needs. The bill includes narrow, clearly defined exceptions for undercover operations and tactical situations. It does not prohibit cooperation with federal or out-of-state agencies; rather, it ensures that any cooperation is constitutional, transparent, and lawful.

This legislation is also important because it prevents the normalization of practices that blur the line between lawful enforcement and intimidation. In a democracy, criminal activity may require anonymity. Government authority does not. Public servants exercising public power should do so visibly and responsibly.

The enforcement provisions within HB 4138 are essential. Rights without remedies are meaningless. This bill ensures accountability through lawful processes and the courts, reinforcing trust rather than eroding it.

HB 4138 reflects values that should unite legislators across party lines: constitutional rights, public safety, transparency, accountability, and protection for children and families. For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support for HB 4138.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Marin