

Submitter:

Cody Jame

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4114

I write in vehement opposition to HB 4114, a bill falsely branded as protecting civil rights while in reality erecting dangerous barriers to legitimate federal and interstate law enforcement, handing criminals advance warning, inviting a flood of abusive lawsuits, and declaring a phony emergency to ram through anti-federal policy.

This legislation creates a private civil cause of action against federal or out-of-state agents for warrantless entries (or those lacking recognized exceptions) that also violate the bill's rigid rules: displaying agency names, presenting credentials on demand, verbally announcing identity before entry, and providing 48-hour advance notice to the Oregon Department of Justice for planned operations. It prohibits Oregon state and local agencies from cooperating with or assisting any federal or out-of-state entity that violates these requirements or targets "sensitive locations" without documented justification. Violations trigger minimum statutory damages of \$15,000, with multipliers for protected spaces, nighttime actions, excessive force, vulnerable plaintiffs (minors, elderly, disabled, pregnant, medically compromised), plus attorney fees and injunctive relief.

This is not protection; it is obstruction. Requiring 48-hour notice to state officials for federal operations—whether immigration enforcement, drug interdiction, fugitive captures, or human trafficking probes—gives criminal organizations time to destroy evidence, relocate suspects, or evade justice entirely. Barring Oregon agencies from cooperating with non-compliant federal partners creates a chilling effect that severs vital information-sharing, joint task forces, and resource support, leaving Oregon communities more vulnerable to fentanyl, gangs, and cross-border crime.

The civil litigation provisions are especially toxic, turning routine or exigent law enforcement actions into lucrative targets for vexatious lawsuits. High minimum damages and multipliers incentivize ideological plaintiffs to file claims over every contested entry, draining federal resources, intimidating officers, and punishing split-second decisions in dangerous situations. Broad definitions of "sensitive locations" (homes, vehicles, places of worship, schools, hospitals, courthouses, shelters) create legal minefields that deter proactive enforcement while ignoring real threats like imminent harm or hot pursuits.

The emergency clause is an abuse of legislative power. There is no sudden crisis of federal agents unlawfully storming Oregon residences. This declaration exists only to bypass normal debate and force divisive, anti-federal restrictions into immediate effect amid national immigration tensions. The bill reeks of sanctuary extremism,

prioritizing political theater over constitutional cooperation and public safety.

HB 4114 is not accountability; it is sabotage. It endangers Oregonians by impeding enforcement against serious crime, invites chaos through litigation, and undermines interstate and federal-state partnerships essential to combating threats no state can face alone. I urge the Committee to reject this bill in full or, at minimum, remove the private right of action, 48-hour notice mandate, cooperation prohibitions, statutory damage multipliers, and emergency declaration.

Thank you for considering this strong opposition. Oregon deserves legislation that strengthens safety, not legislation that paralyzes it.