

Submitter:

Cynthia Branger Munoz

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4138

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and members of the Committee,

My name is Cynthia Branger Muñoz], and I write in strong support of HB 4138.

This legislation addresses a critical issue of accountability. When law enforcement officers operate without visible identification or with their faces concealed, it creates conditions where abuse can flourish and public trust erodes.

We are currently witnessing federal law enforcement operations across Oregon where agents wear facial coverings and lack clear identification. This creates real fear in our communities. Families are keeping children home from school. Workers are afraid to go to their jobs. People are avoiding medical care and places of worship because they don't know when or where these operations will occur.

HB 4138 provides common-sense solutions. It requires officers operating in Oregon to display visible identification including their agency name and either their name or badge number. It restricts facial coverings to narrow circumstances: undercover operations and specific tactical situations where face protection is necessary for safety.

If an officer is acting lawfully, there is no legitimate reason they should be unidentifiable to the public. Transparency and accountability are essential to effective law enforcement.

The people of Oregon deserve to know who is exercising law enforcement authority in their communities. They deserve accountability when their rights are violated. When officers hide behind masks and refuse to identify their agencies, it creates conditions where misconduct becomes more likely and recourse becomes impossible.

I urge you to support HB 4138.

Thank you for your consideration.