

Representative Susan McLain
House District 29



RE: Support for House Bill 4138

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice Chair Chotzen, Vice Chair Wallen, and Members of the Committee:

I write today in support of House Bill 4138. This bill addresses an urgent issue: masked, unidentified federal agents are interrogating residents, using excessive force, and conducting arrests across our state. Many of these officers do not display a name, badge number, or any agency identification. This lack of transparency has exacerbated fear and trauma in my district.

The message from my constituents has been clear: visible identification from all law enforcement officers is a minimum public safety standard. Civilians must be able to clearly recognize agents acting in their official capacity. Without any obvious differentiation between law enforcement and possible bad actors, we leave room for chaos.

As a former teacher of 42 years, I am disturbed by widespread community fear to attend school or use public spaces. Students, teachers, and staff have expressed hesitation to go to school due to the presence of masked agents on our streets. Our local school districts have observed declines in attendance and enrollment, fueled by distress over harassment and detentions by unidentified law enforcement in our communities. We have an obligation to take immediate steps to restore a sense of safety and security in our communities.

House Bill 4138 would establish that law enforcement officers from all jurisdictions may not use masks to conceal their identities. It would empower public employees to refuse participation in federal investigations that violate civil rights and liberties, and strengthen protections for sensitive data. If a violation does occur, HB 4138 allows any person to pursue injunctive relief against a non-compliant agency. This bill is critical to establishing standards of transparency and accountability that rebuild community trust. I am proud to support this effort as a co-Chief Sponsor of HB 4138. I kindly ask my colleagues to support this urgently needed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Susan McLain'.

Representative Susan McLain