

Submitter: Crystal Weston
On Behalf Of: Crystal Weston- TTSD board member
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4138

Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Chotzen and Wallen, members of the Committee,

My name is Crystal Weston, and I live in Tigard, Oregon. I am submitting written testimony as an individual school board member at Tigard Tualatin School District in support of HB 4138.

Masked law enforcement agents, often with no identification, make it difficult for the public to know who is in our community, what they are doing, and whether their actions are lawful. It is difficult for families to know if masked operatives are actual government agents or impersonators.

Without reservation, I condemn masked adult strangers terrorizing immigrant children and families in our communities. Furthermore, near schools, consider the additional terrifying problems with masked federal agents, because if federal agents wear masks, anyone can show up and demand compliance without identification. Consider dangerous non-custodial parents who are perpetrators of domestic violence, opportunistic child abductors posing as federal agents, or other nightmarish scenarios that today's children grow up practicing for in drills. We expect teachers and school staff to show up and be the bandaid on so many of our problems—struggling families, underpaid workers, hungry children. Far below the bare minimum is to prevent masked strangers from legally descending on our places of learning.

HB 4138 strengthens public trust by ensuring that all law enforcement actions in Oregon are more transparent, visible, and accountable. LEAVA will require ALL law enforcement officers operating in Oregon to visibly identify themselves, who they work for, and to unmask. It will also build a firewall between state and local public employees and the federal government to protect our civil rights and liberties, including our due process rights. That's why I support HB 4138.

Thanks so much for your time and efforts on these issues.

Sincerely,

Crystal Weston
Tigard Tualatin School District, Board Member