



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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4138. For the record, my name is Isa Peña and I am the Director of Strategy for Innovation Law Lab. Our organization is an Oregon-based nonprofit that leverages the power of the legal system, technology, and advocacy to support our state's immigrant and refugee populations.

As federal immigration enforcement has expanded their operations in Oregon over the last few months, we have seen families and communities torn apart. Such actions often happen with the agents masked, and sometimes refusing to identify themselves to the people they are detaining. Masked agents operating anonymously are accountable to no one, and eviscerates trust to our local law enforcement. This session Oregon has the opportunity with HB 4138 to ensure appropriate accountability for those seeking to carry out these types of operations in our state. By limiting masking, our communities can better understand who is there to help, and who is not.

But the bill does more than just address masking. It also increases transparency into joint task forces composed of both state and federal actors, and requires certain standards be met before future agreements can be made between state and federal law enforcement.

Over the past several years, Oregon has leaned towards fairness, and working to ensure that all Oregonians have the ability to thrive, live safely, care for our families, and contribute to our communities. We have stood by our neighbors, our friends, our workers and today we must continue to uphold Oregon values.

This important bill is an important part of the immigrant justice package and will increase transparency for Oregonians at a time when many Oregonians are scared to go to school, to receive medical care, or to gather with their communities.

Innovation Law Lab urges your support of HB 4138.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isaura Peña". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Isa Peña  
Director of Strategy, Innovation Law Lab