



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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4111. 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.

People make Oregon their home because they dream of what we all want - to live safely, care for our families, and contribute to our communities. Many immigrant and refugee Oregonians have faced unimaginable circumstances and are fleeing religious persecution or political violence. And yet, they have made Oregon their home and are contributing to Oregon's economy and workforce. They are our friends, teachers, healthcare workers and neighbors.

Innovation Law Lab strongly supports HB 4111 which will strengthen our anti-profiling law to ensure that immigration status is not used as intimidation and discrimination. The bill will also prevent workers who change their status from being retaliated against, and stop the use of immigration status in civil court when it is not relevant to the case.

Over the past several months, immigrant and refugee families across Oregon have been torn apart by the actions of the federal government. Breadwinners have been detained, with their families left to pick up the pieces. We have seen many unlawful detentions by the federal government of Oregonians simply because of the color of their skin or language ability. Preventing immigrants and refugees from being profiled in our state is in line with our values, and the recent surge in harmful rhetoric and violent enforcement confirms why these protections are so necessary. We must do everything we can to end discrimination and send an important message to our communities in Oregon and beyond that profiling of any kind will not be accepted, access to justice is attainable for immigrant communities, and that dignity and fairness apply to everyone in the workplace.

HB 4111 is an important component of the Immigrant Justice Package, a package created to ensure that Oregon can do what we do best, protect our neighbors, friends and our communities. We must stand up to the painful actions of the federal government and protect the place we call home. We urge your support of this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isa Peña".

Isa Peña - Director of Strategy, Innovation Law Lab