

Submitter: Scott Shurtleff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4111

I am writing in support of HB 4111, since it will make Oregon's civil courts more fair. An individual's immigration status should not be disclosed in civil court when immigration status is not relevant to the case. Immigration status will rarely be relevant and should therefore be inadmissible in the vast majority of cases.

I recently reported for jury duty at the Multnomah County Courthouse. One of the training videos presented to the jury pool addressed unconscious bias. We were instructed to take intentional steps in recognizing that we experience it, then to counteract it when hearing testimony and during deliberations.

Allowing immigration to be admissible when it is not material to the case only serves to cause bias. It's completely the opposite of the well-intentioned video about unconscious bias. It's introducing bias consciously!

Please advance HB 4111 with at "do pass" recommendation to create civil court system that is more fair for all residents of Oregon, regardless of immigration status.

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