

Submitter: Tanya Macedo

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4111

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for the bill relating to immigration-related practices that provides that evidence of a party's or a witness's immigration status is not admissible in a civil proceeding.

This legislation is an important step toward ensuring fairness, access to justice, and the integrity of our civil legal system. Allowing immigration status to be introduced in civil cases can have a chilling effect on individuals seeking justice or participating as witnesses, even when immigration status has no relevance to the facts of the case. This undermines the core principle that our courts should decide cases based on evidence and the merits, not fear or prejudice.

By clarifying that immigration status is inadmissible in civil proceedings, this bill helps ensure that survivors of harm, workers asserting their rights, tenants, and witnesses can engage with the legal system without fear of retaliation or intimidation. It also strengthens public trust in our courts and reinforces Oregon's commitment to fairness, due process, and equal protection under the law.

This bill does not impede the administration of justice; rather, it protects it. Civil courts should remain focused on resolving disputes fairly and efficiently, without introducing irrelevant information that can distract from the truth or be used to silence vulnerable community members.

I urge you to support this bill and continue Oregon's leadership in advancing justice, dignity, and safety for all who live and work in our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Tanya Macedo