



February 4, 2026

Re: Yes on HB 4138 (LEAVA Act of 2026)

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Wallan and Chotzen, and Members of the Committee,

SO Health-E is one of 9 regional health equity coalitions (RHECs) across Oregon. We work to advance health equity, well-being and safety for families in Jackson and Josephine Counties. That's why **we write in strong support of HB 4138, the LEAVA Act of 2026.**

Health equity depends on people being able to live, work, gather, and seek healthcare or social services without fear of intimidation, surveillance, or misuse of public authority. HB 4138 strengthens those conditions by requiring clear identification of law enforcement officers, limiting anonymous policing practices, and preventing misrepresentation of law enforcement authority. These measures help ensure that people know who is exercising power over them and under what authority.

Our communities depend on your leadership to ensure safety through clear, accountable measures. Between September and December 2025, SO Health-E surveyed families across Southern Oregon about their top concerns. Threats to human and civil rights consistently ranked among the top three issues, along with housing and cost of living. HB 4138 directly responds to those concerns by establishing clear accountability, transparency, and enforceable protections when constitutional rights are at risk.

HB 4138 includes protections that are especially critical for rural and underserved communities where accountability gaps can have serious consequences for civil and constitutional rights. These include clear limits on when public employees and institutions may assist federal or out-of-state law enforcement, prohibiting cooperation in actions that target constitutionally protected speech, discriminate based on protected characteristics, or involve unlawful surveillance or searches. It also strengthens oversight of joint task forces and cross-deputization by requiring transparency, public posting of agreements, and adherence to Oregon law.

Finally, the LEAVA Act moves beyond aspirational policy by creating real enforcement tools. By allowing people harmed by violations to seek damages, attorney fees, and injunctive relief, the bill ensures accountability is meaningful rather than optional.

HB 4138 aligns strongly with our community's stated priorities and with the conditions needed for people and families to be safe, healthy, and able to fully participate in civic life. We urge the committee to support HB 4138 and advance this critical step toward civil rights, transparency, and health equity across Oregon.

Thank you for your time and service to Oregon.

Sincerely,

SO Health-E, the Southern Oregon Regional Health Equity Coalition