

Submitter: Amie Wexler
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4138
Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and members of the House Judiciary Committee.

My name is Amie Wexler and I am the Executive Director of the Alliance for a Safe Oregon. We are a statewide gun tragedy prevention group. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 4138.

Our organization speaks out against gun violence and works every day to prevent Oregonians from being harmed by a firearm. Whether that harm is through gun suicide, gun homicide, or at the hands of armed federal agents or local police, we speak out because we know every gun death is a tragedy. We also know that the agents that are in our state at the orders of President Trump are not making our cities safer. They are causing more harm to our neighbors, friends, and relations.

The day after Renee Good was murdered in Minneapolis, two people were shot in east Multnomah County by Customs and Border Patrol. Very little reliable information was available about the people who were shot and the people who shot them. This was exacerbated by the fact that the shooters were masked, with no identifying information on their vests.

In Oregon we know the importance of armed agents of the state to be fully identifiable. Portland police during protests need to have a three digit number on their helmets so that there can be accountability if they cause harm to Oregonians. Anonymity breeds impunity. We do not want armed federal agents to be acting with impunity. Having masked law enforcement erodes trust and confidence in all law enforcement.

On Tuesday night, Republican Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky said on the 11th Hour on MS NOW (formerly MSNBC) that ICE agents need to be unmasked except in rare circumstances where they are at the border with the cartel putting their life at risk. Sen. Paul said "I think that anonymity and wearing a mask leads to less responsible behavior."

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input. Please vote aye on HB 4138 and advance it to the House floor with a do pass recommendation.