

Submitter: Anne Bridgman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4150

I am an organizer with Avelo Out of EUG, a coalition grassroots organizations that includes Indivisible Eugene-Springfield, Party for Socialism and Liberation, Showing Up for Racial Justice of Springfield-Eugene, and the Immigration Justice Action Group at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene, and which is endorsed by United for Immigrant Justice, the Oregon Community Asylum Network, and Eugene PeaceWorks.

I got involved with Avelo Out of EUG shortly after Avelo Airlines signed a contract last May with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and began operating deportation flights out of Mesa, AZ, engaging in human trafficking for millions of dollars in profit. Avelo transported people in shackles and without due process, many of whom were never charged with crimes, out of the country.

Because Avelo also flew commercial flights out of Eugene Airport, we worked to educate the public about the airline's deportation work and to shine a light on their use of state and local public resources. We encouraged people to boycott the airline and to fight back against what we perceived as practices that go against both the state's sanctuary protections and the values of Eugene Airport, whose mission statement speaks of integrity and doing the right thing.

Even though Avelo has left Oregon and terminated their contract with DHS, the big not-so-beautiful bill almost guarantees that other businesses will contract to facilitate deportations. I urge you to pass HB 4150 because it codifies in law that our state does not have to be complicity in this work. It assures that Oregon does not financially reward companies that profit from harm, trauma, and family separation.

Please pass HB4150 so we don't have to fight this battle again and again, and so that we can stand proudly as a state that values its immigrant neighbors and does the right thing.