

Submitter: Diana Richardson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4138

I am a resident of Portland, where I have been living for the past 20 years. I have been involved in exercising my civil rights many times since arriving here and am so proud of Portland for being a place where that is still possible and legal! While our Constitution and our very way of life and shared values of inclusion are increasingly under attack from our very own federal government, the best way to insure some measure of defense is to know who is trying to limit our freedoms--of assembly, of speech, of public dissent--to be able to hold law-breakers to account. HB 4138, The Law Enforcement Accountability and Visibility Act provides Oregonians.

It is critical that we do everything in our power to hold the federal government accountable in the midst of its unprecedented steamrolling of the constitution and our basic civil rights.

LEAVA establishes the bare minimum - we have the right to know who is in our streets claiming to be law enforcement. Impersonation of federal agents has been documented because of not prohibiting masking!

No law enforcement group should be masking to deliberately hide their identities in the normal course of business.

Oregonians must be able to identify law enforcement as such, and be able to hold those individuals accountable when they break the law, using harassment, intimidation, threats, physical abuse and injury to coerce Oregonians to follow their directives. This is making our home dangerous, not safer, as asserted by DHS.

Additionally, this law can potentially increase trust and cooperation between the community and local safety officers(police)who must always be in compliance with self-identifying when on duty as police officers. It is clearly deferring to federal government--even when goals and methods used are unconstitutional--to continue to allow federal agents to be masked when our local law enforcement is not.

Please do everything necessary to pass this legislation!