

Submitter:

Rebecca Battin

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4111

My name is Rebecca and I live in Beaverton. I work with the immigrant community and am submitting this testimony on behalf of our immigrant neighbors, friends, and family. I am writing in strong support of HB 4111 to strengthen Immigrant Anti-Discrimination Protections.

Immigrant Oregonians, our families, and communities have been targeted by violent, lawless ICE sweeps resulting in community-wide fear and devastating family separations. No family should have to plan for parents being torn from their children.

These reckless federal attacks demand a strong, unified response. Oregonians know we are stronger together. When immigrant communities are targeted, families struggle, our economy suffers, and critical systems are pushed to a breaking point.

HB 4111 is about living our values: Oregon is a state where no one should fear that going to work, accessing the justice system, or simply going to get groceries or taking their child to the hospital could mean that they never return home. This culture of fear is having negative consequences on people's day-to-day lives. And that's why we're asking Legislators to support HB 4111, which brings three tangible solutions to move the dial to address parts of this culture of fear in Oregon.

1. Civil court: ensures that immigration status would not be admissible in civil cases unless it is essential to prove a claim.
2. Employer retaliation: ensures that if a worker makes a lawful update in work authorization documentation, (for example, going from DACA or a green card to citizenship,) their employer cannot fire, demote, or otherwise penalize them.
3. Profiling: builds on Oregon's anti-profiling law to add immigration status and perceived immigration status (in addition to race, ethnicity and national origin) to our profiling statute.

These changes are simple protections that will support our communities substantially. No one should live in constant fear the way our immigrant neighbors are right now. Additionally, immigrants are truly an essential part of Oregon's economy. 1 in 8 workers in Oregon is an immigrant-- many of whom worked around-the-clock during COVID-19 to keep food on our tables, to care for our loved ones, and to keep our economy running. Without immigrants, Oregon's economy simply would not work. We as a state should do everything we can to end discrimination against these essential workers and members of our neighborhoods and families.

Immigrant Anti-Discrimination Protections is part of the 2026 Immigrant Justice Package and is backed by a broad coalition of immigrant justice advocates, civil liberties groups, unions, and community-based organizations. I urge you to support these community-led policies to protect the freedoms of all Oregonians.

Thank you.