



February 4, 2026

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Wallan and Chotzen, and members of the committee,

My name is Ira Cuello-Martinez and I am providing testimony on behalf of PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union. We are in strong support of HB 4111 to strengthen anti-discrimination protections for immigrant Oregonians.

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.

- Civil court: ensures that immigration status would not be admissible in civil cases unless it is essential to prove a claim.
- 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.
- 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.

I want to use part of my testimony to uplift stories from our community to give you a sense of the challenges they are facing in these moments of uncertainty. One person says:

"I want the legislators and officials to know that not all immigrants are criminals, as we are portrayed in the news. There are many immigrants who work every day under the sun, rain, snow, and ice, regardless of the temperature. We are committed to our work, which is harvesting or planting vegetables and fruits for the consumption of everyone who lives in Oregon. Those products you see in the supermarkets were harvested by the hands of Latino farmworkers who, even though immigration authorities keep us scared, we continue to go to work. We remain committed to caring for and respecting every citizen of the state. We also pay taxes. We contribute to the community when needed. We are not criminals. We are people with dreams and also respectful people."

Another person says the following:

“Even though I have citizenship documents, I am very afraid to go out into the streets and to the stores to buy food. I feel frustrated, and things are not the same as when I first arrived in Oregon. I have also lost my job because of the new administration and the new government.”

As you can hear from their stories, our communities, regardless of immigration status, are afraid and angry. The legislature has an opportunity to strengthen protections by ensuring employers cannot retaliate against workers updating their work authorization, immigration status being inadmissible in civil court, and adding immigration status to our existing anti-profiling statute.

PCUN, along with a broad coalition of community-based organizations and labor, urges the committee to support HB 4111.

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