

VOTE YES FOR HB 4150 – NO STATE CONTRACTS WITH I.C.E.

Chair Sosa, Vice-Chair Chaichi, Vice Chair Osborne, and Members of the House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

I am the mother of an Oregon State Police Trooper and member of the SWAT team. I'm extremely proud of my son (and also my daughter who is an Oregon State Police Forensic Scientist) and I'm about as supportive of law enforcement as anyone could be.

I am also pretty familiar with the way GOOD law enforcement officers behave. There is no universe in which I can imagine my son or his colleagues acting the way federal agents have been acting here in Oregon, in Minnesota, and in other states as well. They would be fired. They would very likely face criminal charges. Our local and state police officers in Oregon have months of intensive training, they understand their role as public protectors and officers of the peace, they get proper search warrants, those arrested get due process, and our local and state police officers treat Oregon residents with respect and dignity.

Nor can I imagine our state and local police agencies acting the way DHS has acted after officer-involved shootings: immediately and publicly defending officers before any investigation, and in fact, refusing to even investigate. My son, as a member of the SWAT team, was part of an officer-involved shooting incident last year. There was an extensive investigation that took several weeks, and until it was completed, no public statement was made by OSP as to the officers' justification or lack of. The way DHS has behaved following the shooting deaths of a number of people is simply appalling. DHS is showing us all what a "police state" looks like, and we don't like it.

I am deeply saddened that anyone would think this is okay. No matter where you stand on the topic of deportation of undocumented people, law enforcement officers have no business breaking the law or terrorizing people to do their job.

But what can the State of Oregon do to control the actions of federal agents? There will no doubt be legal battles over many of the laws states are currently passing to de-mask agents, require them to wear ID, and hold them to higher standards of professional behavior. But there is one thing the federal government has absolutely no right to control: which companies Oregon chooses to do business with. We have seen evidence over the past several months that financial boycotts work.

Please vote YES for HB 4150. It is one of the simplest and surest ways that Oregon can take action against a federal agency that is out of control, that is being enabled and even encouraged to terrorize communities by its leaders. Oregon can put pressure on businesses that do business with ICE by refusing to award state contracts or grants to those business. It's simple and it works. Non-cooperation from the pillars of our society, and business is one of those pillars, is critical in the effort to resist the rising authoritarianism of the Trump Administration.

Sincerely,

Deborah Ferrer
The Dalles, OR