

Submitter: Scott Shurtleff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4111

Please advance HB 4111 with a "do pass recommendation" to create a civil court system that is more fair for all residents of Oregon regardless of immigration status.

I recently reported for jury duty at the Multnomah County Courthouse. One of the training videos presented to the jury pool addressed unconscious bias. We were instructed to take intentional steps in recognizing that we experience it, then to counteract it when hearing testimony and during deliberations.

Our system of justice must be consistent with the goal of an unbiased jury and its design must avoid introducing irrelevant information that could trigger bias. Making an individual's immigration status inadmissible when status is not relevant advances this important goal of Oregon's justice system.