

Submitter: Donna Cohen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4114

Testimony HB 4114 – In support
Donna Cohen, Portland
Senate Committee on Judiciary
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The 4th Amendment to our Constitution should not be taken lightly. And, yet, it is by the current federal administration. We have routinely seen federal agents across the country enter homes and other private areas to haul away people when they do not have judicial warrants. An executive department does not get to rewrite the law and declare that judicial warrants are not required. And administrative warrants are nothing more than “permission slips” by bosses to their subordinates. The whole purpose of a judicial warrant is to have a neutral third party determine if there is probable cause for the warrant.

It falls then for the State of Oregon to shore up our rights as Oregonians. HB 4114 will allow for consequences to federal agents who ignore the 4th Amendment rights of those living in Oregon by providing us a legal course of action to sue them. This is appropriate and just. Without consequences there is no reason to believe that federal agents will follow the law – especially since the law is being ignored and/or falsely interpreted to allow federal departments to fulfill the political goals of the Trump administration. The federal DOJ has become a lackey for President Trump. Thankfully, the Oregon DOJ stands up for the people.

Thank you for proposing this bill and I hope it becomes law.