



Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4114. For the record, my name is Isa Peña and I am the Director of Strategy for Innovation Law Lab. Our organization is an Oregon-based nonprofit that leverages the power of the legal system, technology, and advocacy to support our state's immigrant and refugee populations.

Over the past year, Oregon's immigrant and refugee communities have been pushed to the brink. Violent warrantless arrests and detentions carried out by federal immigration enforcement have separated families, left entire communities terrified, and in tragic circumstances across the nation we have seen lives lost at the hands of federal agents.

These dragnet operations by immigration enforcement are meant to achieve quotas of arrests, regardless of what the law requires agents to do when taking away someone's liberty. Oregonians have been deprived of their constitutional rights and as Oregon we have felt the impact. Innovation Law Lab is actually in federal court today, asking for a preliminary injunction to halt ICE's practice of conducting warrantless immigration arrests in Oregon and stop ICE's unlawful policy of "arrest first, justify later." The Constitution says the government can't just arrest you and then figure out why after. But that's exactly what ICE is doing in Oregon.

At the same time that we fight to enforce the Constitution, we need state lawmakers to take action.

When federal immigration enforcement violates our constitutionally protected rights while carrying out their efforts, there are few ways for Oregon to hold such action accountable. HB 4114 would expand the ability for individuals harmed by violations of our constitutional protections to sue and receive potential compensation.

Establishing such financial penalties would be a powerful deterrent against future attempts by the federal government to unlawfully target immigrants and refugees in our state. It would offer families who are terrified of what tomorrow could bring the needed protections to feel safe in their own homes again. This bill helps restore trust and safety for our immigrant communities. We are living with heightened fear that agents might enter our homes without proper judicial oversight. This fear undermines basic community stability, keeps people from seeking health care or reporting crimes, and ultimately erodes trust in law and government.



Strengthening constitutional protections through HB 4114 would signal to all of us that the constitutional rights apply to everyone equally, regardless of our immigration status, and that unlawful intrusions will have consequences.

The Protect Your Door Act is an important part of the Immigrant Justice Package crafted to protect our neighbors, friends and our communities. Innovation Law Lab urges your support of this important bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isaura L. Peña". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "I".

Isa Peña
Director of Strategy - Innovation Law Lab