

Submitter: Chelsea Burns

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4138

I've been following this bill closely because I live in Gresham and have seen a lot of fear and confusion in my community.

Passing this law will help make Oregon safer for everyone. The FBI issued a bulletin warning that criminals are posing as ICE agents to commit crimes and detain victims. When officers cover their faces and lack visible identification, the public can't tell the difference between real law enforcement and someone pretending to be law enforcement.

This bill applies to all law enforcement, not just one agency. A federal court reviewing California's similar law recently found that the main problem was that it didn't apply equally to all officers. Oregon's bill does. From what I understand, this bill was developed with input from Oregon law enforcement and reflects practices that many local agencies already follow.

The bill doesn't block lawful federal operations. It simply says that if you're exercising authority over people in Oregon, they should be able to see your face and know who you work for. That's a basic public safety standard that makes things clearer and safer for everyone, including community members and law enforcement.