

2/25/2026

Testimony in support of bill HB 4138
Senate Committee on Rules

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Starr, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sam Guthman, and I am here on behalf of APANO Communities Fund. We work with Asian and BIPOC communities across Oregon, including immigrants, refugees, small business owners, elders, and youth to build power, develop leaders and advance equity through organizing, advocacy, community development and cultural work.

I am here today in strong support of HB 4138A — the Law Enforcement Accountability and Visibility Act.

This bill is fundamentally about protecting our communities from unfair and discriminatory targeting.

When law enforcement officers operate in our neighborhoods masked and without visible identification, it creates fear, confusion, and vulnerability. Community members cannot tell who is a legitimate government official and who might be an impersonator. That uncertainty makes it easier for bad actors to exploit fear and that much harder for our trusted local actors to act with support.

For Asian American and many other communities of colour, we know from our marked history that government surveillance and racial targeting are not abstract concerns. This is a lived reality. From unlawful incarcerations in our coloured communities to post 9/11 stereotypical profiling, we have experienced what happens when transparency and accountability fail and it is time to take action.

For immigrant families seeking opportunity, for our neighbours who want to feel safe in their own homes, for the next generation of youth looking to us for sound governance — visibility and accountability deeply matter.

HB 4138 ensures that all law enforcement operating in Oregon clearly identify themselves and their agency. That straightforward requirement strengthens public trust and reduces the risk of discriminatory enforcement. This bill also builds a firewall between state and local employees and federal efforts that may target individuals based on protected identity or protected activity — including the constitutional rights to free speech, right to politically organize, and our right to protest.

Oregon has long led the nation in sanctuary protections. HB 4138 continues that legacy by ensuring public employees are not pressured into participating in unconstitutional targeting — and by giving individuals the ability to seek court intervention if violations occur.

At its core, this bill affirms that in Oregon, law enforcement must be visible, accountable, and protect the rights of the people they serve.

And our communities deserve nothing less.

Thank you for your time, and we urge your support of HB 4138A.

Sam Guthman
Policy Manager
APANO Communities United Fund