



Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Starr and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4138-A. 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.

Right now, almost 1.6 million Oregonians are currently living under a declared state of emergency because of the massive due process violations we have seen across Oregon by federal DHS agents.

Through Innovation Law Lab's federal litigation, we have uncovered alarming details about what our communities have endured. Federal agents admitted under oath that Oregonians have been subjected to dragnet operations, targeting geographic areas rather than individuals just to fill arbitrary quotas using high-tech surveillance, drones, and manufactured paperwork. Such actions often happened with masked agents refusing to identify themselves to the people they were detaining.

Masked agents operating anonymously are accountable to no one, and that eviscerates trust to our local law enforcement. This session Oregon has the opportunity with HB 4138-A to ensure appropriate accountability for those seeking to carry out these types of operations in our state. By limiting masking, our communities can better understand who is conducting enforcement actions. This bill also increases transparency with publicly posted policies and reduces confusion by providing clear guardrails to prevent our local agencies from assisting in unconstitutional practices as well as injunctive relief creating a clear pathway for accountability.

Over the past several years, Oregon has leaned towards fairness, and we have stood by our immigrant neighbors, our friends, our workers and today we must continue to uphold Oregon values.

This bill is an important part of the immigrant justice package and will increase transparency for Oregonians at a time when many Oregonians are scared to go to school, to receive medical care, or to gather with their communities.

Innovation Law Lab urges your support of HB 4138-A.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isaura L. Peña".

Isa Peña
Director of Strategy, Innovation Law Lab