

**Testimony in support of HB 4111**

**Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and Members of the Committee,**

My name is Joshua Baker, and I am the Director of the Nuclear Free Program at Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility. Our organization works to prevent harm before it occurs by addressing policies that affect community health and safety across Oregon. I respectfully urge your support for HB 4111.

At its core, this bill is about whether Oregon's legal and public safety systems can function as intended.

Courts and law enforcement rely on people being willing to come forward when they experience harm. Victims of wage theft, discrimination, domestic violence, or unsafe working conditions must feel able to report violations, participate in civil proceedings, and cooperate with investigations. When immigration status can be introduced or weaponized in civil proceedings, many individuals reasonably fear retaliation, exposure, or consequences unrelated to the case itself. The predictable result is that some people do not seek protection or legal remedy at all.

When that happens, the impact extends far beyond the individual. Employers who violate labor laws face less accountability. Unsafe housing conditions persist. Abuse and exploitation go unreported. In practical terms, a justice system that some residents are afraid to use becomes less effective for everyone.

HB 4111 addresses this problem in a narrow and functional way. By limiting the admissibility of immigration status in civil court unless it is directly relevant to a claim, the bill helps ensure cases are decided on facts related to the dispute, not on fear or intimidation. The bill also protects workers from retaliation when they lawfully update their employment authorization documents, allowing people to follow the law without risking their livelihoods. In addition, updating Oregon's anti-profiling statute to include immigration status and perceived immigration status helps clarify expectations for law enforcement and reduces the likelihood of mistaken or discriminatory stops.

From a public safety and public health perspective, systems work best when people trust them. Communities that feel safe interacting with courts and authorities are more likely to report dangerous conditions, cooperate with investigations, and prevent harm before it escalates. Policies that create fear reduce reporting, and reduced reporting undermines both safety and accountability.

HB 4111 strengthens access to justice, supports and helps ensure that Oregon's legal protections apply in practice, not only in theory.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to vote **yes on HB 4111**.

Sincerely,  
Joshua Baker, PhD  
Nuclear Free Program Director  
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility