

February 19, 2026

Dear Representative Sanchez,

My name is Magnolia Mayers. I am a student at St. Mary's Academy, and I am writing to you regarding House Bill 4138. This bill would create laws prohibiting ICE from covering their faces while on the job, as well as requiring all officers to have an ID easily accessible. The ID must show the organization they represent and either their name or badge number.¹ I am writing to urge your support for HB 4138 as it will greatly protect immigrant communities in Portland, a sanctuary city, by ensuring that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers can be held accountable for illegal actions because they will be required to carry identification and show their faces.

ICE has been in our streets performing arrests and assaults, but officers are unidentifiable to the average citizen. Portland is a sanctuary city, relying on state and local policing and providing protection from federal immigration agents. When President Trump sent ICE to our city, it removed that protection. Last year, Dr. Mahdi Khanbabazadeh was pulled over by ICE on his way to drop off his daughter at daycare when ICE officials pushed against his window and broke it. ICE officers originally refused to allow him to drop his child off while his child exclaimed "daddy, police!"² A preschooler should not have to see federal agents harassing their dad; officers should inspire trust, not fear. Oregon Representative Ricki Ruiz of Gresham said "I'll tell you this, law enforcement in Gresham is not going to put masks on to make an arrest or a traffic stop. They are going to show who they are, and they are not hiding their identity, I don't think ICE should be any different."³ When ICE clearly shows their faces, organization, and badges, it protects the integrity of officers' actions and keeps them accountable for everything they do. They do not have the right to mistreat anyone, regardless of their legal status. This is why ICE officers must always be identifiable, by both their organization, and by their name or badge number. "Public confidence in local law enforcement is eroded when masks render it impossible to identify what law enforcement agency an individual works for," said Rep. Farah Chaichi. Officers must be identifiable immediately, just like all other police. They should not receive exceptions at the expense of the community; when ICE is not identifiable, it puts the security of Portland at risk.

Beginning when I was young, my uncle, author of the book, *Salulito, Salulito*, a collection of immigrant stories, was honest with me about immigration in the U.S. I remember being confused

¹ HB 4138, 2026

² Conrad Wilson and Holly Bartholomew, "Daddy, police!": New video shows masked ICE agents arrest father outside child's school in Beaverton," Oregon Public Broadcasting, July 21, 2025, <https://www.opb.org/article/2025/07/21/new-video-ice-agents-arrest-father-beaverton-preschool/>

³ Lauren Dake, "Northwest politicians call for ban on ICE officers' masking practice," Oregon Public Broadcasting, July 24, 2025, <https://www.opb.org/article/2025/07/24/northwest-politicians-ice-masking-ban/>

as to why immigrants were treated differently and not accepted. I had been told that the U.S. was a place of freedom, where everyone belonged and when my uncle told me that was not the case, I was confused. I believe that immigrants should be treated with the same respect as those who have been in the U.S. for generations. Immigrants are vital to the wellbeing of Portland. In 1958, John F. Kennedy called the United States “a nation of immigrants,” and that is what we continue to be today.⁴ Immigrants deserve all the rights any other American would have, and I will continue to share my opinion on this through other similar communications with elected officials.

I urge your support of House Bill 4138, denying ICE the ability to cover their faces, and requiring clear identification of their organization and who they are because all officers must be held accountable for their actions. ICE officers, like any other person in the U.S, immigrants included, have to follow laws to keep people safe. When ICE identifies themselves, immigrants will be safer and federal forces can operate justly.

Sincerely,

Magnolia Mayers

Student, St. Mary's Academy

⁴Mathew Sorens, “A Nation of Immigrants,” The White House: President Barack Obama, March 29, 2013, <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/2013/03/29/nation-immigrants>

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