

Submitter: Valentina Paternoster
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4138
February 19, 2026

Dear Senators,

My name is Valentina Paternoster, I am a highschool student and a resident in Portland Oregon and I am writing to you regarding Senate Bill 4138. This bill would prohibit federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement or ICE officers from wearing facial coverings while on duty as well as mandating that these officers display visible and valid identification whilst working. I am writing to urge your support for Senate Bill 4138, which would help reduce the risk of agent impersonations as well as protecting the safety and comfort of Oregon civilians, especially those living in areas with a high immigrant population or in low income neighborhoods.

Senate Bill 4138 states that it “Requires law enforcement agencies to require officers to wear uniforms with specified identifying information.” The crime of officer impersonation, specifically ICE impersonation is a felony that has recently seen dramatic increase, thus this Bill would help ensure that this coercion can not continue, putting an end to the assault, robbery and extortion that has been unlawfully committed. “Throughout the country, both undocumented immigrants and United States citizens have been terrorized at the hands of federal agents in masks, these agents have continuously with or without warrant conducted immigration raids with violence and without due process.” It is vital for the safety and wellbeing of Oregonians that ICE officers are held accountable for their actions, able to be easily identified and held amenable on duty as well as protecting the mental comfort of those living in targeted areas. Even though currently ICE agents cannot enter a person's home without a proper warrant, there have been reports in Oregon of ICE agents changing licence plates, placing mexican flag stickers on vehicles and even posing in disguise as maintenance workers to “lure people from their homes”. This level of deception used by ICE officers only creates community fear and officer distrust, decreasing the overall safety and wellbeing of all Oregon residents; Bill 4138 would help ensure that officers act as themselves, not hidden behind masks, held fully responsible to the consequences of the law they claim to enforce.

For my whole life I have thought of the police officers in Oregon and all law enforcement across the U.S as courageous figures who demonstrate their commitment to the safety and justice of their communities every day. I live in a largely lower income neighborhood with a generally higher immigrant population and I have always thought of my neighborhood community as thriving. To hear stories of

neighbors and friends who are so scared to go into the world that they are going hungry in their own homes is devastating news. To think that we live in a time where officers of the law represent violence and fear to so many is truly disheartening. That is why it is so important that we fight for movements like Bill 4138, so that families and communities can feel safe under the protection of all U.S officers.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 4138, which would lower the risk of agent impersonations as well as protecting the safety and well being of all those who live in Oregon. If you or your staff would like any additional information regarding this issue, do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Valentina Paternoster