



February 26, 2026

To: Senate Committee On Rules  
From: Zach Winston, Policy Director

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 4138-A**

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

My name is Zach Winston. I am the Policy Director for the Oregon Justice Resource Center (OJRC). The OJRC strongly supports HB 4138-A, the Law Enforcement Accountability & Visibility Act.

Actions by federal agents have created fear and confusion in many communities because residents cannot reliably tell who is—and is not—law enforcement. That ambiguity undermines public safety and trust. Clear, visible identification is a basic safeguard that protects both residents and officers by reducing panic, preventing impersonation, and ensuring accountability. Transparency in identification is not a barrier to enforcement—it is a prerequisite for legitimacy and community safety.

HB 4138-A will strengthen public trust, protect civil liberties, and provide clarity to law enforcement agencies operating in Oregon. It does so through clear standards, transparent boundaries, and narrowly tailored exceptions.

HB 4138-A establishes statewide standards for law enforcement identification and masking. The public should know who is exercising police authority in their communities. By requiring officers to visibly identify themselves and their agency—while allowing limited exceptions—HB 4138-A promotes accountability and transparency. Requiring agencies to develop and publish policies further ensures consistency and clarity across jurisdictions.

HB 4138-A builds a necessary firewall between state/local public employees and unconstitutional federal actions. The bill does not obstruct lawful information or assistance; instead, it protects against Oregon resources and personnel being used to facilitate discriminatory or unconstitutional investigations or cooperation that violate civil rights, free speech, or due process. Clear exceptions for court orders and publicly accessible information will protect employees.

Importantly, HB 4138-A includes enforcement mechanisms that give these protections real effect, including injunctive relief and clear implementation timelines. These provisions ensure compliance while giving agencies sufficient time to develop and modify their policies.

HB 4138-A is not anti-law-enforcement; it is pro-accountability and pro-transparency. It provides all law enforcement with clear rules, protects public employees from unlawful entanglement, and supports policing in Oregon that is conducted openly, lawfully, and consistent with our shared values.

The OJRC urges your support on HB 4138-A.