

TESTIMONY OF
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PRESIDENT, OREGONIANS FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM
ON HOUSE BILL 4121
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEBRUARY 5, 2020

Madame Chairman and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I urge you to vote "no" on House Bill 4121. The bill would prohibit the Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facility from contracting with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency to incarcerate illegal aliens if the Legislature were to provide the facility taxpayer monies totaling at least \$1.64 million in a biennium.

This would be a serious abdication of our state's responsibility. Oregon is part of the United States of America, and as such has obligations to the nation as a whole. One of those obligations is to help enforce the laws Americans have enacted via the representatives they've elected to Congress -- including laws to regulate the flow of foreign nationals into our nation. ICE is indispensable to the enforcement of those laws. Oregon lawmakers, then, should provide the agency their support in its work to detain illegal-alien criminals and keep Oregonians safe.

House Bill 4121's passage would send a harmful message to the men and women of ICE -- men and women engaged in the ground-level and often dangerous work of enforcing our immigration laws and protecting American citizens. It would tell these courageous agents, who put their lives on the line for our safety every day, that Oregon buys into the irresponsible, left-wing narrative that their agency routinely violates "human rights" and that their vital work is evil. It would tell them that Oregon is only too happy to cast aside its obligation to help curb and dissuade illegal immigration, and only too happy to foist that obligation instead onto states with more integrity, more courage, and more commitment to the safety of Americans.

Contrary to what mainstream media outlets tell us, illegal aliens commit crimes in disproportionate numbers against U.S. citizens. The Federation for American Immigration Reform analyzed data from the U.S. Department of Justice and, in a report issued last year, reported that illegal aliens are at least three times more likely to be incarcerated for crimes as U.S. citizens and lawfully-present aliens. By hampering the ability of ICE to operate and to detain illegal-alien criminals in Oregon, what message would the Legislature be sending to those criminals' victims?

House Bill 4121 would undermine Oregon's obligation to the nation as a whole and to the safety of its citizens. The committee should reject the left-wing virtue signaling inherent in this bill and, instead, put the needs and the safety of our state, its citizens, and the United States of America first.