

Submitter: Ruth Kaminski
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2851

I am writing to oppose House Bill 2851 and the -1 Amendment.

We are in challenging times in our country, when the very fabric of our democracy is being eroded. Language of terrorism is being used to destroy American democracy, and this wonderful state in which I have made my home, built a business, and raised a family should not be expanding so-called terrorism laws. These laws are unnecessary - we already have criminal laws that protect us a citizens.

I would like to see Oregon be a model for the nation in protecting democracy, speech, and protest, not following in the footsteps of the federal administration to as was done when ICE detained Mahmoud Khalil, a green card holder and Columbia University student as punishment for engaging in protected First Amendment activities. If his green card is revoked and he is detained, who is next? Where does this end?

Why are Oregon lawmakers considering anti-democracy frames being weaponized by the current administration?

I respectfully ask you, our state lawmakers to make clear that our current anti terrorism bill does not penalize or criminalize constitutionally protected activities including free speech and protest.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.