



Date: May 7, 2025

To: House Committee on Judiciary  
From: Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural  
Re: **Oppose Senate Bill 238A**

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Chotzen, Vice-Chair Wallan, and members of the Committee,

My name is Nansi Lopez, and I am the Policy Director at Centro Cultural. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition to Senate Bill 238A.

**Centro Cultural is the oldest and longest-serving Latino culturally specific organization in the state of Oregon. It empowers Latino families and diverse communities by removing barriers, fostering well-being, and building power to achieve economic prosperity. Centro centers the experiences of those most impacted in our communities in everything we do, with a commitment to reducing barriers at every level of our work.**

I respectfully urge the Committee to reject this bill. Historically, communities of color fear and do not trust the police and conversely, law enforcement agencies tend to over-police, racial profile, or convey a lack of trust in people of color. This is particularly concerning to Latino communities at a time when the immigrants and refugees are experiencing unprecedented fear. Now is not the time for a legislative blank check for law enforcement to use drones without a warrant. This bill provides a vague and overbroad authorization for law enforcement to use drones, without warrants, for “lawful police activity”--a phrase that is NOT defined.

Current law already allows law enforcement to use drones without a warrant in several situations including search and rescue operations, investigating crime/accident scenes, with the consent of a private property owner, or for “exigent circumstances”

The expanded, warrantless use of drones envisioned by SB 238A threatens privacy, civil liberties, and community trust. It does so without clear public safety justifications, adequate legislative oversight, or protections against abuse. Respectfully, I urge this Committee to reject SB 238A.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter.

**Nansi López** | *Policy Director, Centro Cultural*