



Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, Members of the Committee:

My name is Amanda Orozco. I use she/they pronouns and I serve as Policy Coordinator with Unite Oregon. We are a statewide organization led by Black, Indigenous, people of color, immigrants, refugees, and low-income communities. I'm here today to urge you to vote no on Senate Bill 238.

While we understand that the intent of this bill is to improve community safety, but the reality is it will expand surveillance and policing in the communities we represent—communities that are already over-policed and under-resourced.

SB 238 removes key privacy protections that are currently in Oregon law. It gives police the ability to use drones with almost no limits. The bill allows drone use during any “lawful police activity,” a phrase so broad it can mean almost anything. That means law enforcement could monitor people without a warrant, without accountability, and without our consent.

There is no real oversight in this bill. No requirement for judicial review. No transparency. No public reporting. Just the assumption that law enforcement will regulate itself. That is not how we protect civil rights.

We are also concerned about vague language like “calls for service” or “public safety emergencies.” In practice, those terms are often used to justify over-policing of Black, brown, and low-income communities. We’ve seen nationally how these become calls to crack down on our First Amendment right to assemble.

This bill comes at a time when civil liberties are already under threat. The role of the state legislature should not be expanding tools to quell political dissent. Giving police even more unchecked surveillance power is not the path to safety. It puts our communities at greater risk.

We should be investing in solutions that build trust and safety, not flying drones over neighborhoods that are already heavily policed.

Please vote no on SB 238. Let’s protect the rights of all Oregonians—especially those most impacted.