

Dear Oregon Legislators,

My name is Nadia Hasan and I serve on the Beaverton City Council - in this testimony, I am representing my views as a Muslim woman, community leader and advocate for civil rights.

As we stand at an intersection of our country and democracy, I am deeply concerned about the stripping of civil rights we are seeing with the current federal administration. From illegal deportations to attempts at censoring speech, the fragility of the United States hangs in the balance.

I will never forget 9/11 - this is a day that changed not only my life - but the life of people in my Muslim community. I watched people in the Muslim community - primarily men - subject to harassment and consistent discrimination simply for their religious beliefs. I know people who were illegally detained and wrongfully accused of countless alleged crimes - all of whom have been cleared of committing crimes.

SB238A offers a blank check to law enforcement to use drones without warrant - it opens up the idea that you are not innocent until proven guilty and completely disregards a person's right to privacy. If law enforcement wants to use drones, they can and should partner with the courts to do so in a safe and legal manner. These checks and balances among our systems exist to protect people and ensure we are doing the right thing.

At a time when unprecedented federal aggression and fascism is on the rise, it would be reckless for this legislature to authorize widespread, unregulated warrantless use of drones by law enforcement. As our Muslim community grapples to manage increased anti-Muslim rhetoric, we must take a moment to decide whether this decision is in the spirit of democracy.

I am here to tell you - it is not.

Please vote no on SB238A so that we can maintain trust and understanding in our state.

Thank you,

Nadia Hasan