

Submitter: Anthony Estrada
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4138

The lack of accountability and secrecy of the federal or out-of-state agents acting as ICE has, to say the least, eroded trust in our laws and government, particularly law enforcement. ICE's aggressive and violent so-called immigration enforcement actions have involved kidnapping and detaining Oregonians, including children, regardless of citizenship and often because of their color or national origin; attacking folks trying to help ICE victims, and tear gassing lawful peaceful protesters. ICE agents are heavily armed and operate with masks that obscure their faces; they don't have uniforms or even any identification. ICE lurks on streets and in parking lots and outside of schools, hospitals, courthouses, and workplaces, causing such fear and intimidation that in some communities people avoid work and keep their children home from school; they avoid getting medical help and struggle to obtain food and other necessities. It goes without saying ICE tactics have ratcheted up the threat of violence in Oregon.

ICE operates like a rogue secret police which should be unthinkable in our democracy. I urge you as legislators to take the actions you can to rein in ICE and quell the fear that prevents so many from going about their daily lives. The provisions to limit face coverings and generally require identification of these so-called agents are important tools to allow folks to hold them accountable. LEAVA will strengthen our sanctuary state laws and protection of Oregonians' individual liberties: LEAVE will prohibit state and local cooperation with ICE efforts to interfere with our First and Fourth Amendment rights or to go after persons because of their race, national origin or other protected status.

I urge you to strengthen as much as possible the complaint process and any penalties for failure to comply so folks are not left to seek redress primarily on their own or through time-consuming and expensive civil actions. Regardless, please vote yes on LEAVA, HB 4138.

Thank you.