

Submitter:

Janet Lowrey

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4138

I support and have great respect for peace officers. I've grown up with the understanding and comfort that peace officers have a mission to protect people, all people. Peace officers have until recently, been easily identifiable, and in most cases, abide by the laws of their jurisdictions. This enables the public to trust them when they come into contact with them. However, ICE and other federal agents have now broken that trust. When masked agents without proper identification, stop cars indiscriminately, smash windows, drag people out of cars and slam them to the ground injuring them, take them to detention centers without warrants or arrests, and detain them for any length of time without due process, we should all be terrified. This is called kidnapping. This is illegal in the U.S. and yet it is happening, allowed by the Federal government. I was taught growing up female, to be cautious of my surroundings and not let myself be put in danger. If masked persons, without ID, were to surround my vehicle without cause, it would be my instinct to get my car out of that situation at any cost, even if it involved running into the vehicles blocking my car. This is what women were taught to stay alive. Now, doing these life saving actions can get you murdered with the full backing of the U.S. government. Requiring ICE and other federal agents to not wear masks, to wear visible ID, to have proper warrants, and any other criteria customary, and in some cases, already established, will help stop the kidnapping and murder and people living in the U.S. I strongly urge the passing of HB 4138 to protect democracy and human life.