

Submitter: Kim Evans

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4138

I am writing to express my opposition to Oregon House Bill 4138, specifically the provisions that would expose the identities of police officers in ways that could jeopardize their personal safety and the safety of their families.

Transparency in government is important, and law enforcement should absolutely be held accountable for misconduct. However, accountability must be balanced with common-sense protections for those who serve in dangerous and highly polarized environments. HB 4138, as written, risks tipping that balance too far and creating unintended but very real consequences.

Law enforcement officers are increasingly subject to targeted harassment, doxxing, threats, and violence—often extending beyond them to their spouses and children. Publicly exposing officers' identities, particularly in contentious or emotionally charged incidents, can escalate these risks dramatically. Once personal information is released, it cannot be recalled, and the harm may be permanent.

Oregon already has mechanisms in place to investigate misconduct, ensure oversight, and discipline officers when necessary. Internal affairs processes, independent investigations, civilian review bodies, and the court system exist precisely to ensure accountability without putting individual officers at unnecessary risk. Weakening privacy protections does not strengthen justice; it may instead discourage proactive policing, worsen recruitment and retention challenges, and undermine public safety overall.

Additionally, HB 4138 could have a chilling effect on officers' willingness to take decisive action in dangerous situations, knowing that their personal identities could later be publicly exposed regardless of context or outcome. This hesitation can cost lives—both civilian and law enforcement.

Protecting officer identity is not about shielding wrongdoing; it is about recognizing the unique risks inherent in the profession and ensuring that accountability measures do not create collateral harm. True reform should focus on behavior, training, and systems—not on exposing individuals to retaliation or vigilantism.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 4138 in its current form and instead pursue legislation that strengthens accountability while preserving the safety, privacy, and dignity of the men and women who serve our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration
Kim Evans