



*Testimony in Support of HB 4138 (2026)-*

*Law Enforcement Accountability and Visibility Act (LEAVA)*

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Chotzen and Wallan and members of the committee,

My name is Kate Suisman. I am an attorney at the Northwest Workers' Justice Project (NWJP). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important bill. We represent workers in low-wage jobs when bad things happen to them at work: when they are not paid, or are discriminated against for being in a protected class or are retaliated against for speaking up. Finally, we engage in policy advocacy and try to bring the important perspectives of workers in low-wage jobs and immigrant workers to these policy discussions.

A long-established norm is that law enforcement agents identify themselves. They wear their badges. Their uniform says the agency they work for. They do not hide their identity. It gives me pause that certain federal immigration enforcement agents are fighting so hard for anonymity. When we are proud of our actions, we are not afraid to show who we are. We have all seen examples of federal agents whose entire face is covered except for their eyes assaulting us. Sunlight is truly the best disinfectant. We need to know who is policing our neighborhoods.

LEAVA requires all law enforcement agencies operating in this state to develop and follow policies related to transparency like being unmasked, except in limited situations like under-cover work. It also prohibits state employees from helping federal law enforcement agencies (or those from other states) investigate or arrest individuals in ways that are violative of constitutional rights.

The Law Enforcement Accountability and Visibility Act is part of the 2026 Immigrant Justice Package and is backed by a broad coalition of immigrant justice advocates, civil liberties groups, unions, and community based organizations. Please support this extremely timely and necessary bill. Thank you.