

To the House Judiciary Committee,

We strongly support HB 4138, the Law Enforcement Accountability and Visibility Act (LEAVA). We are members of the Multnomah County Democrats' Criminal Justice Study Group, which supports and lobbies for smart reforms of Oregon's justice system. This bill is a good example of what is needed in our state.

Every resident of Oregon should be able to clearly identify law enforcement agents who are confronting them or any members of the public. That means all agents must be required to wear identifying clothing & ID badges and not cover their face. This must apply to all law enforcement--local, state, federal, and out-of-state agents.

Not only is it a matter of law enforcement transparency and accountability, but it also protects the public from individuals pretending to be law enforcement and prevents our mistakenly retaliating against a law enforcement agent.

We also approve of prohibiting our Oregon entities from cooperating with any federal or out-of-state law enforcement that is violating legal rights and protections of our state or the US Constitution.

The House Judiciary Committee should definitely pass HD 4138 so that the full Legislature can vote to protect all the residents of Oregon in this manner.

Sally Joughin
Layla Assem
Tony Fischer

-