



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

My name is Brooke Hill, and I am submitting testimony today on behalf of Oregon AFSCME. We are a labor union of around 40,000 members advocating for workers and their families in the public and private sectors. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comment today. Oregon AFSCME stands in strong support of HB 4138, the Law Enforcement Accountability and Visibility Act (LEAVA).

HB 4138 strengthens public trust by ensuring that all law enforcement actions in Oregon are more transparent, visible, and accountable. Our state has seen severe violations of immigrant Oregonians' constitutional protections, especially by masked, unidentifiable federal agents.

Seeing masked agents patrol my community has been painful, and created a culture of fear that is untenable. All Oregonians should be able to leave their homes and answer their doors without fear. LEAVA creates protections against these unlawful actions, including prohibiting the use of masks for law enforcement while on active duty. It creates specific and limited exceptions for SWAT and undercover operations. It also requires law enforcement to display their name and badge number prominently. These restrictions are necessary to curb federal overreach and introduce more transparency in immigration enforcement. LEAVA provides a path for members of the public to seek injunctive relief against agencies who violate these provisions, to hold them accountable and stop abuses.

LEAVA also builds a firewall between public employees and the federal government. It expressly prohibits public employees from cooperating with federal law enforcement activities. This includes data and privacy protections, which is necessary as we have seen an increase in the collection and dissemination of sensitive information, like voter data. Protecting public employees and our data privacy is paramount in ensuring civil liberties are defended.

Thank you for your consideration. Oregon AFSCME, along with several other labor partners, community led organizations, and immigrant justice groups, stands in unwavering support of HB 4138, and the Immigrant Justice Package.

Sincerely,
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