

Submitter:

Juan Pedro Moreno Olmeda

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4138

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Juan Pedro Moreno Olmeda. I'm a lifelong Hillsboro resident and a community advocate, and I'm here in strong support of House Bill 4138. I also want to be clear that while this bill is important, it is not enough on its own. Our communities will not be fully safe until ICE is banned from our state altogether. I am demanding that Oregon go further and end ICE operations in our communities, because what we are experiencing is fear, harm, and terrorism. What ICE is doing is not improving community safety, and instead it is tearing our communities apart. Requiring clear and visible identification on law enforcement uniforms matters, it protects all of us. Many people in our communities have experienced intimidation and abuse by people claiming to be "law enforcement". When officers don't show their names, badge numbers, or cover their faces, it creates fear and makes it almost impossible to hold anyone accountable. This fear hits immigrant communities, communities of color, and people who have been over-policed the hardest. HB 4138 also addresses something our communities are deeply worried about: the ongoing coordination between local police and federal or out-of-state law enforcement. Too often this happens without the public knowing. Requiring disclosure of joint task forces and cross-deputization agreements helps make sure there is transparency and oversight. We deserve to know who has power in our communities and how that power is being used, especially when it can lead to racial profiling or immigration enforcement abuses. Accountability cannot be optional, and it has to be built into the system. That's why it matters that this bill allows people to take action when their rights are violated. If there are no consequences, then our rights don't really mean anything. HB 4138 gives people a real path to justice when harm happens. I want to be very clear that this bill does not make our communities less safe. It makes them safer. Transparency builds trust, accountability builds trust, and trust is what actually allows communities and law enforcement to repair the trust that has been broken.

I urge you to vote YES on HB 4138, and I urge you to go further by banning ICE from our state.

Thank you for your time and for hearing my testimony.