Submitter: Carrie Corson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4138

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Chotzen and Vice-Chair Wallan and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing today to ask you to join me in supporting HB 4138.

Like so many Oregonians and people across the country, I am appalled by the overreach and tactics that federal Immigration agencies are using in an effort to terrorize communities and individuals in our neighborhoods, places of worship, schools, places of employment or while simply walking down the streets. One of those tactics being to allow agents to wear masks and to not be clearly identified by their uniforms. These tactics are clearly being used to protect agents that are potentially violating the law and/or our rights from facing accountability. I support the notion that any law enforcement agency or officers working anywhere should be clearly identifiable. Public trust in all law enforcement agencies and officers is quickly being eroded by the refusal to do so.

However, this bill goes far beyond simply prohibiting masks or requiring clearly identifiable uniforms. After reading the excellent summary by the bill's Chief Sponsor, Representative Chaichi, I am heartened that it also seeks to protect those engaged in First Amendment activities or within protected classes from overreach by state/local law enforcement agencies by prohibiting them from engaging in surveillance or investigation of people based solely on those criteria. It also prohibits Oregon state and local employees, including public universities from cooperating with federal or another state's crackdown on free speech or targeting of protected classes.

All people in Oregon should feel that our state and local law enforcement agencies are working to protect our communities and our rights rather than engaging in the terror tactics that are being utilized by our federal immigration agencies.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carrie A. Corson
Waldport, OR