

Submitter:

Dawn Banks

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SJR203

Chair and Committee Members,

I support Senate Joint Resolution 203 to amend Article 1 of the Oregon State Constitution, to prohibit secret police from operating in our state, and to ask Oregon voters to make the decision, to vote yes or no, to this amendment on the next Oregon general election ballot.

The presence of armed, masked, unidentified enforcers stopping people, questioning people, detaining people, and making arrests, is not the norm for law enforcement in this country or in Oregon, far from it. The fact that the current administration is allowing and encouraging this divergence from the norm is a threat to basic American human rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, because it disables all systems of accountability. It not only opens up the unfortunate opportunity for bad actors within the system to operate outside the law, but also creates opportunities for bad actors outside the system, pretenders, to engage in violent and unlawful acts under the guise of "law enforcement."

Just as citizens are, by law, held accountable for their actions, those people performing duties as law enforcement officers must also be subject to accountability. Without proper identification, this is not possible. I personally would think that legitimate law enforcement officers would be proud to be held accountable for their lawful actions. Armed enforcers with faces masked, with non-standard uniforms or no uniforms at all, and with no identification, are unacceptable, and should be made unlawful in Oregon. I trust the voters of Oregon to be able to make a decision about how our laws should be enforced.

Dawn Banks, Salem OR