

**Submitter:** Austin Sumpter

**Committee:** Senate Committee On Judiciary

**Measure, Appointment or Topic:** Support for Senate Joint Resolution 203

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, members of the Senate Committee On Judiciary,

My name is Austin Sumpter. I live in the outskirts of Canby in rural Clackamas County, Oregon, specifically in Senate District 26 and House District 51. I testify today to express my support for Senate Joint Resolution 203, a proposal to ban law enforcement officials from wearing masks through the Oregon Constitution.

You don't need me to tell you twice how the Trump regime and its bootlickers in Congress have created a secret police force through H.R. 1 last year, providing ICE a budget larger than most nations' militaries. Whether in major cities like Portland and Eugene or more modest cities like Woodburn, the consequences of these ICE and Border Patrol raids have been nothing short of traumatic and tragic. Adding insult to injury is the fact these ghouls and goons wear masks to obscure their identities while they forcefully abduct people—often without judicial or magistrate warrants—to concentration camps in who-knows-where. The lack of clear identification only serves to alienate citizens from law enforcement and erode public trust.

The Legislature can do something to stop this with Senate Joint Resolution 203. If this is adopted, it will refer a state constitutional amendment to Oregon voters later this year to add to Article I of the Oregon Constitution an amendment banning law enforcement officials from wearing masks while operating in the state. If we could be the first state in America to pass a sanctuary law, we can also be one of the first states to pass an amendment to ban masked law enforcement agents.

Of course, there are uncertainties. A similar policy in California is currently being challenged in federal court, and there's no guarantee that Oregon voters will approve of such an amendment. But no matter what, adopting this resolution for the 2026 ballot will still send a message that Oregon is a state that seeks to welcome and help our immigrant communities and individuals. Please take a stand and adopt Senate Joint Resolution 203.