

Submitter: Benjamin Gorman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR203

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Benjamin Gorman, and I live in Eugene (97401). I am writing in strong support of Senate Joint Resolution 203, which if passed would propose to Oregon voters an amendment to the Oregon Constitution banning the use of masks by law enforcement officers and requiring them to wear uniforms with badge numbers. The practice of masking by law enforcement is not only dangerous to public safety but it erodes the trust of the citizens they are supposed to be protecting.

I am the son of a WWII veteran who fought fascism in Europe and I believe the current federal administration is leaning heavily on the Nazi playbook in a shameless effort to promote white supremacy in America. It is doing so by disproportionately funding DHS and ICE to build a jack-booted army of thugs to terrorize and/or deport any and all non-white members of our communities.

In 2023, I moved to Oregon from Minnesota, where I have many friends and acquaintances who are living in daily terror caused by the Trump/Miller ethnic cleansing efforts being directed at that state—a state with far fewer immigrants than many "red" states that supported their installation into office. Their cruel efforts are clearly partisan, deeply racist, meant primarily to instill fear, and smack of the worst of Hitler's Naziism in 1930s Germany.

Oregon must stand against this open tyranny by enshrining in its constitution sensible protections against authoritarian powers trying to tear down our Constitutional rights and freedoms. Please support SJR 203.

Thank you for your time and attention to this vital matter.

Benjamin Gorman