

Chair Prozanski, Vice-chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Committee On Judiciary,

I am writing on behalf of AFT-Oregon. We are a labor federation representing workplace unions across the state in early learning, K-12 schools, and across our state's college and university landscape. Our 28 unions represent over 18,000 essential staff, instructors, faculty, and employees who support our students and advocate for the public good. **AFT-Oregon fully supports SJR 203 and recommends the legislature pass the bill and put the question to Oregon voters.**

ICE agents across our state have been wearing face coverings such as medical masks or balaclavas that conceal their operations, identity, and validity. The Department of Homeland Security claims this is necessary, but it deeply undermines transparency and accountability. If ICE agents are serving to benefit the public - they would have no issue with public identification.

Visibility and clear identification are foundational to any sense of accountability and oversight. It will allow for a better investigation of unlawful and inappropriate conduct. It would bridge the enormous divide between the public trust and ICE, who by many are perceived as waging an unconstitutional campaign of terror on our communities. It would defer potential abuse and impersonation. How is anyone to know if these are legitimate potential officers without being identifiable? We have already seen cases of armed non-agents impersonating agents in other states. This can lead to tragic and horrendous outcomes – we must prevent it at all costs.

The fear in schools, college campuses, and across our student bodies is profound. Everything we can do to promote safer, more stable learning environments is in our union's interest. The learning environment is home. It is at school. It is every single moment for students. We cannot have secret police fomenting terror at home, school, and each moment in Oregon.

We support SJR 203 and urge its passage.

Sincerely,



Harper Haverkamp, PhD
American Federation of Teachers – Oregon (AFT-Oregon)