

Submitter: Esther Friedman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR203

I am writing on behalf of the proposed amendment to the Oregon constitution which would ensure that law enforcement officers are not masked and must, under most circumstances, wear identifying information. It is critical that we as citizens can hold our law enforcement officers to a standard of conduct that allows them to do their job and gain the trust and support of the community. Knowing that our officers are willing to be identified helps to accomplish those goals. Additionally, it is already standard for most agencies to require that officers are identifiable and transparent with the citizens they serve; this measure simply codifies that standard.

Of course, this measure is also meant to address the extreme overreach and violence we have seen in this country - and in Oregon - by ICE and CBP. This measure will help protect Oregonians from further violence and from unaccountable actors tarnishing the reputation of law enforcement in our state. Fully trained and professional officers have no need to hide their faces or their identities from the people they serve.

I urge you to protect Oregonians and professionals in law enforcement by codifying these basic standards.