

Submitter: Peter Bergel  
On Behalf Of: Oregon PeaceWorks  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR203

Testimony of Peter Bergel on SJR 203

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

My name is Peter Bergel, I live in Salem and I am here representing Oregon PeaceWorks.

Because the federal government has taken upon itself the authority to illegally harass, injure and even kill residents of this country, due to their immigration status, including a majority who are legal residents, it is incumbent upon the Legislature to provide what protection it can to those at risk.

It is very difficult to hold masked lawbreakers to account if we do not know who they are. So far local police in Oregon have been mostly unwilling to take action against these thugs for fear of violating the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution. This leaves residents of Oregon with no protection, despite the existence of the Sanctuary law. That law only provides that Oregon's officials will not HELP ICE. It does not require them to help Oregonians.

Since we cannot depend on our police to protect us against ICE, and in order to provide accountability in these cases, it is essential that members of the public be able to identify those who purport to be legitimate federal law enforcement personnel. This identification must include the body which such personnel claim to represent as well as their personal names or badge numbers. Members of the public must be able to access this information readily so they can take legal action against those who misuse their authority.

That, as I understand it, is what both SJR 203 and HB 4138 seek to accomplish in different ways, and for this reason I urge this Committee to swiftly move SJR 203 to the House floor with a "Do Pass" recommendation.