

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,

My name is Linda Nishioka, and I am a resident of Salem. I am writing in support of Senate Joint Resolution 203.

I have heard from many people in my community about troubling enforcement actions taking place in our capital city. What concerns them most is not only the actions themselves, but the lack of clear identification and accountability that leaves residents feeling fearful and uncertain.

At its core, this proposal is about transparency, accountability, and public trust. It would require law enforcement officers performing official duties to be clearly identifiable, with visible agency information and badge numbers, and would prohibit the use of masks in public-facing roles.

Importantly, the measure includes necessary exceptions for undercover operations, SWAT teams, and, through a pending amendment, situations involving smoke, infectious disease, or biological hazards. These exceptions recognize officer safety and operational realities.

This proposal does not restrict legitimate policing. It ensures that when officers are acting in public, Oregonians know who is policing them. Senate Joint Resolution 203 is a legislative referral that would allow voters to decide whether this standard should be included in Oregon's Constitution.

I strongly support bringing this question to the voters. My goal is to help ensure that our community remains safe, accountable, and welcoming for all.

Thank you.