

Submitter: Rick Varnum
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4001

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 4001.

Over the last year we have seen some federal officials, most notably ICE and Border patrol, operate in Oregon and throughout the country in ways that are brutal, anonymous, and not at all transparent. Their overly aggressive tactics have resulted in many people, citizens and non-citizens alike, being injured and a few even killed. Some, including Vice-President Vance, have suggested that these officers have total immunity. This makes it difficult to hold these officials accountable for actions that are illegal, often even denying people rights protected in the US and Oregon Constitutions.

I support HB 4001 because it seeks to address this perilous situation by mandating the Oregon Department of Justice study the issue and come up with recommendations for changes in Oregon law that would increase accountability, allow for true due process, and lead to federal officials respecting the rights of all. I encourage your committee to move this bill back to the floor of the Oregon House with a recommendation that it be passed into law.

Sincerely,

Rick Varnum