

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

As a long time citizen of Oregon, from my birth in Astoria, growing up in Douglas County and rural Lane County, and now living in Portland, I have always relied on my safety being protected by professional actions on the part of law enforcement officers. My own uncle, who I always looked up to, lost his life in the line of duty as a police officer in California. I have had many members of local police and country sheriffs whom I cooperated with in my work as a young person at Lane County Animal Shelter, as well as counting many over the years among my close friends.

Because of this history, I am shocked at the outrageous behavior in Oregon and across the country, of masked and unidentified federal agents violently terrorizing communities with impunity. I was deeply saddened to meet with a long time friend recently who lives on the waterfront right near the Portland ICE facility. Her dear husband, an Oregon judge of Mexican descent, had just died this past year. In honor of him, she had joined the peaceful protest in early January. She described to a group of us at our church the horrific details of the ICE agents terrorizing the large group of community members, gathered to grieve the recent losses of American citizens in Minnesota. She and her neighbors were traumatized and many suffered physical damage due to the weapons inflicted on them.

This is not immigration enforcement. It is certainly not democracy. Rather, this is the kind of lawless paramilitary secret policing we see in authoritarian regimes. It is heartbreaking and should shock our conscience. We as Oregonians should be able to hold all law enforcement operating in this state to the high standards of Oregon law enforcement.

I urge your support for SJR 203.

Sincerely,  
Donna