

TO: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee

FROM: Tabitha Iggulden Forest Grove, Oregon

RE: Written Testimony in Support of HB 4001

DATE: February 16, 2026

POSITION: SUPPORT

Written Testimony in Support of HB 4001

Chair, Vice-Chair's, and members of the Committee — thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today.

My name is Tabitha Iggulden, and I am a resident of Forest Grove, Oregon. I am a social work student and a community member who is deeply concerned about how immigration enforcement practices impact Oregon families, particularly mixed-status families, children, and immigrant communities. I am writing in strong support of House Bill 4001. I support this bill because Oregon currently lacks sufficient transparency and oversight regarding federal immigration enforcement activity within our state. While immigration enforcement is primarily a federal responsibility, its effects are deeply local — shaping whether people feel safe sending their children to school, seeking medical care, reporting crimes, or engaging with public services. When enforcement activity crosses legal boundaries, the harm is not abstract; it results in trauma, family separation, and community destabilization.

Although Oregon has taken important steps to position itself as a sanctuary state, these policies have not fully prevented federal overreach or the continued presence and activity of ICE within our communities. In practice, immigrant and mixed-status families in Oregon still experience fear of surveillance, detention, and family separation, even when state and local

governments have attempted to limit cooperation with federal enforcement. This gap between Oregon's stated commitment to protecting immigrant communities and the lived reality on the ground demonstrates why HB 4001 is so necessary. Studying how the state can better address unlawful or overreaching federal enforcement is essential to making sanctuary more than just a label — it must be a meaningful protection in people's daily lives.

My support for this bill is informed both by my social work education and by evidence from reputable human rights and policy organizations. Human Rights Watch has documented serious concerns about excessive use of force, lack of accountability, and misleading public statements by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), including in the 2026 killing of Renee Nicole Good in Minneapolis, where video evidence contradicted ICE's initial claims of self-defense (Human Rights Watch, 2026). These documented patterns raise critical questions about oversight and legality in enforcement operations.

Additionally, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General has repeatedly found deficiencies in ICE's use-of-force policies, documentation, and accountability mechanisms (U.S. Department of Homeland Security [DHS] Office of Inspector General, 2022). Research from the Vera Institute of Justice and the ACLU of Oregon further demonstrates that aggressive immigration enforcement practices generate fear that discourages immigrant communities from accessing healthcare, cooperating with law enforcement, or participating fully in civic life — outcomes that undermine both public safety and community well-being (Vera Institute of Justice, 2021; ACLU of Oregon, 2020).

From a social work perspective, these realities conflict with our profession's core values of human dignity, social justice, and the right to safety and due process. As Mel Wilson (2021) argues in *Migrant Detention in the Era of Mass Deportation*, carceral approaches to immigration

deepen structural inequities while failing to address the root causes of migration or community safety.

HB 4001 does not assume wrongdoing — rather, it responsibly calls for a careful, evidence-based study by the Oregon Department of Justice on how the state can address unlawful immigration enforcement activity. This is a prudent and measured step that prioritizes legal clarity, civil rights, and informed policymaking rather than reactive or punitive responses. The findings from this study will equip the Legislature with the information needed to craft policies that protect Oregonians while upholding the rule of law.

As an Oregon resident and future social worker, I believe our state has a moral and legal responsibility to ensure that sanctuary truly means safety, dignity, and due process for all people within its borders. Passing HB 4001 is a critical step toward closing the gap between Oregon's values and the realities faced by immigrant communities.

I urge you to support HB 4001. Thank you for your time and consideration.

References:

American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon. (2020). *Immigration enforcement and community safety in Oregon*. ACLU of Oregon.

Human Rights Watch. (2026). *US: ICE killing in Minneapolis raises accountability concerns*. Human Rights Watch.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General. (2022). *ICE use of force: Policies, training, and accountability*. DHS OIG.

Vera Institute of Justice. (2021). *Immigration enforcement and public safety: Community impacts*. Vera Institute of Justice.

Wilson, M. (2021). *Migrant detention in the era of mass deportation*. Policy brief.