

Submitter: Devon Lawson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4001

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Devon Lawson. I am testifying today in opposition to HB 4001 in its current form.

I speak to you today as a concerned citizen who sees this bill for what it is. A bureaucratic stalling tactic.

Section 1 of this bill asks the Department of Justice to submit a report by September 15, 2027. By the time this report is filed, thousands more Oregonians will have been detained, deported, and separated from their families. To answer the violence of the deportation machine with a "study" is not a strategy; it is a surrender. We do not need 18 months to discover that ICE interferes with our courts or that racial profiling exists. We need Universal Representation and a strengthened Sanctuary Promise Act now. Do not vote for a placeholder that tells our immigrant neighbors, "Wait two years, and then we'll write a report about your suffering."

Look at the vagueness of the mandate. "study ways the state may address unlawful immigration enforcement." This is a blank check for the DOJ to spend tax dollars on a political position paper. It is not the state DOJ's job to write essays on federal policy. It is their job to enforce the law. If unlawful activity is happening, prosecute it. If it isn't, move on. Paying state lawyers to "study" this for 18 months is fiscal irresponsibility.

This bill represents the worst instinct of government, the belief that a crisis can be solved by a committee report. You have the power to "gut and stuff" this bill. Fill it with substance. Give us a bill that funds legal defense for workers. Give us a bill that bans data sharing with ICE. But do not pass a bill that simply creates a task force to admire the problem.

I urge you to vote No on this placeholder unless it is amended to include immediate, concrete protections for the working class. We don't need a study. We need a shield.

Thank you.