Submitter: Austin Eversole

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4091

My name is Austin Eversole and I a software programmer living in Beaverton, OR.
I support this bill.

I've read all the opposing testimonies to see better understand where they are
coming from. It looks like two major complaints are:
1) Federal law supersedes State law. This bill violates the constitution.
2) Using the words "illegal aliens" and "criminals" to categorize undocumented
immigrants and telling Oregon to stop protecting these people.

I'll respond to these below:

1) Those concerned it violates the U.S. Constitution may misunderstand this bill.
States cannot prevent federal activation or deployment of the National Guard. This
bill does not attempt to do that.
The key parts of the bill are:
-National Guard cant be mobilized by Oregon to help with law or immigration
enforcement duties.
-Other state-activated militia/armed forces cannot enter Oregon state borders

This bill only applies to the Oregon National Guard when under state control. It
respects federal supremacy by allowing federalized troops to operate regardless of
state restrictions.

Prohibiting armed forces from other states entering Oregon respects the Principles of
State Sovereignty and the Interstate Compact Clause. In this bill, federalized troops
are exempt, consistent with federal supremacy.

2) This is an unfortunate result of the polarization of American politics.
I won't go into this in my public testimony much, but there has always been a part of
the population throughout history that has a lower tolerance for ambiguity. In this
situation, that looks like "anyone here illegally, no matter how long they lived in our
community or what their criminal record is like, should be deported and there is no
gray area". Unfortunately, this makes it easy for authoritarian leaders to get their
support (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NVd8zmjPGrg), which is a big reason I
believe we are in the position we are in right now. Compassion for people with lower
tolerance for ambiguity is necessary.

If anyone who opposes this bill is reading this, you might recall last year when Republicans in congress such as Ron Johnson, Todd Young asked President Trump to stop targeting farmworkers in his immigration enforcement surge. As a result of public and private conversations within the republican party, Trump said "Our farmers are being hurt badly, you know, they have very good workers, They've worked for them for 20 years. They're not citizens, but they've turned out to be great, and we're going to have to do something about that. We can't take farmers and take all their people and send them back"

The Trump administration admitted that deporting farmers is a problem. But so is deporting immigrant workers in construction, forestry, manufacturing, hospitality, and a chiropractor in my city of Beaverton - backbone working members of our society. 42.7% of people detained by ICE right now have no criminal record (https://www.factcheck.org/2026/01/as-ice-arrests-increased-a-higher-portion-had-no-u-s-criminal-record - 1/26, ICE's public statistics).
Of those with a criminal conviction, an inordinate amount of people are detained by ICE for traffic offenses (20%) compared to the number people arrest for traffic offenses in Oregon (5%).
(https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ZIdIHsmDYWlHkkxJOGrQd8tSvKRDCGz SCGmhhIdPOkA - calculations and source data from 4/25-11/25). It seems clear that ICE is finding the smallest reasons (like a speeding ticket) to detain and deport our immigrant neighbors.

Yes, undocumented immigrants are legally classified as aliens and criminals. But despite the negative connation of those words, those who are called "illegals aliens" and "criminals" are just as human as U.S. citizens are. They deserve to be treated decently and fairly by federal law enforcement. That is not happening in the slightest right now. I think Oregon should be protecting immigrants as they make up the backbone of our labor economy and are valued community members