

Senator and other decision makers to whom this letter addresses,

I'm Tom Spence, resident of Portland, Oregon.

I grew up in Ohio and have lived in Maryland before moving to Oregon - so Senator Courtney, understanding your birthplace of Philly I know you've seen your share of diverse culture we are all proud of and celebrate. I've been a part of neighboring, and different communities of Cleveland, Cincinnati, Baltimore, and now Portland calling each at some point "Home".

I ask today that while measures and heightened sensitivities are going to be taken to protect society from Covid, please pay extra attention to the measures that will help our communities from a different disease.

I remember in my neighborhood growing up, that an officer in Blue is meant to protect and serve, after Columbine we had a school officer who was kind, listened, and educated. She's now our Chief of Police. We need those role models to be patrolling our streets.

Please find that Philly Grit and bring it tomorrow to fight for banning choke holds, creating the database to track police misconduct so the officers that need the additional education and training can get it, holding cops accountable for their actions, and their peers. Raise the floor on how officers act, are seen in our streets, and a part of our community.

I hope this finds you Senator and those reading safe, in good health, with open minds, and wash your hands.

-Tom