

Hello Representative Bynum,

I am a student enrolled in the OSU/OHSU College of Pharmacy. I am reaching out because I believe justice for police brutality towards minorities can be tackled with legislative action.

My idea for legislative action is about a bureau or board of members that would work with the Oregon police departments and the Department of Justice. This bureau would be established on the foundation of diversity requiring equal distribution and representation of all minority races, cultures, and genders. The bureau would work with the police to hold citizens and law enforcement officers accountable for their actions regarding discrimination, racism, and excessive force toward unarmed minorities. We would give this bureau the authority to help charge an officer or a citizen of a criminal offense specifically pertaining to unjust crimes towards minorities. This authority would include participation in advising an appropriate verdict for the crime that was committed.

I have read the Senate Bill 1567 and it seems to align with a similar thought process for the idea I shared with you. I wanted to follow up with some clarifications to this idea.

I understand that this bureau of minority representation would not have the authority to decide a criminal charge. This authority belongs to Oregon District Attorneys and the Attorney General. This bureau would work alongside the DAs as consultation to what legally constitutes as police brutality towards a minority or a hate crime and ensure that an appropriate charge is being made. In addition, this bureau would work alongside the police departments to more so apply pressure to the department when an arrest hasn't be made in a timely manner, because I believe a minority in this bureau could be the only one to facilitate a discussion about a citizen of their own race or ethnicity who experienced police brutality or a hate crime. This discussion would be the ultimate factor in working with the Oregon DAs and police departments.

Now after talking with a good friend who is an attorney, he had made it aware that for this bureau there may need to be a member from every county participating in this group. I wanted to know your thoughts on if this truly is a potential flaw in establishing this idea. Another idea could be making the representation of this bureau equal by requiring one white representative, one black representative, one hispanic representative, etc. in order to accomodate for the sparse distribution of race diversity across all of the Oregon county populations. I would also like to know what other avenues we could approach in conducting police brutality and racism oversight with this idea.

Sincerely,

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