



June 23, 2020

Co-Chairs Senator and Senate President Peter Courtney, and Representative and House Speaker Tina Kotek; co-Vice Chairs Senator Fred Girod and Representative Christine Drazen; and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of OR, we respectfully request your support for Legislative Concept 78.

Systemic racism is firmly rooted in the U.S. and today's injustices mirror our shameful history. There can be no justice or equality when black, indigenous and people of color are seen as less deserving of basic human and civil rights.

It is unfortunate that we live at a time when police who have committed serious misconduct can continue working at their post, or simply move to another jurisdiction and pick up where they left off.

Without public transparency, serious police misconduct will in effect be countenanced. All citizens need to know that the police officers they encounter are abiding by their professional standards. This is clearly not always the case. For example, the Washington Post's database shows that nearly 1 in 3 shootings that result from a car chase start with a traffic stop for a minor infraction.¹

In my personal experience as a federal prosecutor and criminal defense attorney, I often encountered police officers who understood only too well how things "really" worked -- and that there was often a huge difference between what is said, i.e. the rules, and what actually takes place, i.e. the final outcome. Police officers need to know that if they don't follow the rules by committing misconduct that results in a suspension or revocation of their certification to continue as a police officer, then suspension or revocation of this certification cannot be easily avoided.

Respectfully submitted,

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¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/investigative/2015/12/26/a-year-of-reckoning-police-fatally-shoot-nearly-1000/>, A Year of Reckoning: Police Fatally Shoot 1,000, Washington Post, Dec 15, 2015.