

From: [Sydney Schilling](#)
To: [J1SS Exhibits](#)
Subject: Testimony for Special Legislative Session
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 6:32:09 PM

Dear Senate President Courtney, Representative Speaker Kotek and Committee members, My name is Sydney Schilling and I live in Portland. Ahead of the First Special Legislative Session of 2020, I am writing to urge you to support bills brought forward by the legislature's People of Color Caucus that will apply to all local law enforcement agencies in Oregon, including the PPB, which address:

- Making it harder for arbitrators to overturn law enforcement discipline
- Require law enforcement officers to intervene and report when colleagues use unreasonable force
- Prohibit local law enforcement from using tear gas, long range acoustic devices, or sound cannons
- Ban law enforcement from using holds that inhibit a person's ability to breathe, including but not limited to choke holds
- Put the Oregon attorney general in charge of investigating cases of deadly use of force, and force that causes serious injuries, by law enforcement
- Create a statewide database of law enforcement officer discipline and publish the information online

For years, Black legislators and legislators of color have brought forth bills that addressed disparities based on racist institutional policies and laws that disproportionately threaten communities of color, such as racial profiling, proper and fair investigation of deadly use of police force, arbitrators overturning police discipline in high-profile use-of-force or racial bias cases, biased crimes, and small offenses that have left Black and Brown folks facing harsh sentences. Many Black and Brown legislators have even shared experiences of being personally affected by racial injustice with their white counterparts, yet were met with a lack of urgency and grasp of the seriousness of these matters.

The time for urgent action is now. As we watch cities and states around the country demanding change, we cannot wait any longer for equitable and just systemic reform within our own state. In addition to your support of these bills, I am also calling on you to support

and champion future measures that address systemic change for injustice and inequity facing Black and Brown communities. We need divestment of funding from law enforcement and reinvestment in Black and Brown lives, community-based resources and services. We need equal distribution of basic resources such as healthcare, housing, food, education, etc., as well as equitable initiatives that will allow Black and Brown communities to thrive.

Action taken now in favor of systemic change will allow future generations to thrive. Thank you for your time and I look forward to watching your votes come Wednesday.

Sincerely,

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Sydney Schilling
She/Her