

Joint Interim Committee on the First Special Session 2020,

My name is Troy Tate and I live in Multnomah County in Portland Oregon. I am wiring in to state my support for the bill which is being discussed. I'm in support of providing outside legal counsel to investigate police misconduct specifically when it involves deadly force. As a resident of Oregon my whole life I have seen first hand the difficulty in local district attorneys have when prosecuting law enforcement officers they work with. Specifically, I can recall District Attorney Shrunk refusing to prosecute Officer McCollister for the shooting death of Kendra James. More recently, although not in Oregon, two District Attorneys recused themselves in the Ahmaud Arbery shooting as they were colleagues of the accused.

As with many police involved shootings that gain notoriety, what becomes clear is the mistrust that the public has in the inability of the local police precinct to objectionably and efficiently investigate a case involving one of their own. True and unbiased oversight must take place if the process is to be without prejudice. The only way for this to be done is for independent investigation to take place. As members of the jury, we're ineligible to participate if we know the accused, the same should be true of the prosecution.

Thank you for allowing me to speak,

Troy Tate