

Hello, my name is Glenna Hayes and I am writing to you about police reform. Now more than ever we need to seriously talk about divesting and defunding the police. With COVID-19 having a huge impact on our economy Oregon does not have the funds to meet our budgetary needs. Time and time again these cuts come to our community services, like our mental health programs, supports for people with disabilities, casemanagement services, shelters, housing supports, food stamps, parks and recreation, all of which have seen deep cuts over the years. When we divest from our communities and invest into the police/military we are literally killing people. I am not just talking about the police brutality and violence, I am talking about the amount of people who die on the streets from lack of health care and housing, or the person who died from lack of medication because their insurance wouldn't cover it, the countless people with disabilities who have been killed or left for dead because they don't have the supports they need. With this current crisis going on we have the opportunity to reform the police and their budget so we can rebuild our community. If you look at the history of how the police budget has grown, and the excessiveness of their equipment and the complete lack of training on other areas you will see they are not here for the community. The police's solution to working with people with disabilities is to have them put themselves on a list, disclosing all of their disabilities so that police can read a tiny line of information if they get called, but only to their registered address. Having people register on a list is not only degrading, it is extremely inappropriate. How many times have you seen list in our history be used as a way to oppress and even murder communities? What is even worse was during a discussion about this, two police officers didn't even know where to find this or utilize this information. When I wanted to call project responde, the police came instead and responded with 6-8 officers already armed with bean bag guns, the individual threatened suicide by cop so they disengaged. If there were proper supports in place we could better utilize our resources and reduce the trauma people face in these situations. We have so many lived experiences out there, why are we waiting for more to take action?

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Sincerely,

Glenna V. Hayes