



Joint Special Committee on the First Special Session of 2020

June 23, 2020

Co-Chair Courtney, Co-Chair Kotek, Co-Vice Chair Girod, Co-Vice Chair Drazan, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), I am writing to express our support for a process to address the urgent issue of police accountability and to ensure that any legislative proposals have been developed with community.

We are grateful for the years of leadership from the BIPOC Caucus to address these issues, and recognize the urgent need to strengthen police accountability standards. However, any policy changes need to be co-created with communities and shaped by their concerns and goals. Based on our partner organizations' experiences, we are concerned that there has not been adequate time or conversation on the LCs that have been submitted to ensure that they address underlying problems of police violence.

We can best take advantage of this moment by enlarging the conversation to reimagine public safety, and **we support the community-led reimagining safety and resiliency effort and ask that you invest in this effort immediately before taking legislative action.**

Community-based organizations have successfully participated in campaigns related to racial disparities that involved listening sessions with community, collaboration with stakeholders, and learning from other communities to develop a path forward on some of the most challenging issues around community safety. This kind of campaign may not be straightforward or swift, but it is essential to creating transformative change that increases community safety, particularly for Black Oregonians.

Thank you,

Jenny Lee  
Advocacy Director, APANO