

Dear Co-Chair Courtney, Co-Chair Kotek, Co-Vice Chair Girod, Co-Vice Chair Drazan and members of the committee,

I am a student at Oregon State University. While I personally as a white person have not had many encounters with the police, many of my close friends have, some of them people of color. Their stories account of extreme intimidation, lack of reasonable cause, and worry for their safety while in the presence of police.

Close family members have shared with me they have witnessed a sheriff deputy abusing animals and knew even if they report it nothing would be done. I personally have seen videos of police brutality committed by the Portland Police Bureau as well as other city and town police. Police need to be held accountable for their actions and treated like civilians.

Law enforcement education needs to be transformed to train them to connect with their communities and treat civilians with respect. The rules of engagement, if they exist at all, need to be changed to avoid and prevent the needless deaths. Drug use and selling needs to be treated as a public health issue rather than a criminal issue, and drug abusers should feel safe and unashamed to seek affordable drug abuse treatment.

Racial profiling needs to end. You, as law makers in Oregon, have the power to do most- if not all of this. If you think this is not affordable, take a look at the budgets of the police at this point in time and look into where that money goes. What do you see? What do you know? What is best for the people? Because right now, the law enforcement officers as they are surely are not it.

Thank you for your time.