

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform,

As a citizen of Oregon, viewing the meeting today from home, I am heartened by the creation of this committee and by the content I saw today.

I appreciate the breadth and depth of what is being looked at at all levels of government and society. I understand that there is much more on the meeting agendas in the days to come, if this first meeting is any indication of the movement into actual active solutions to systemic racism in Oregon government, then I am looking forward to seeing the changes recommended and implemented. Time and again studies upon studies have been done to examine whether or not racism is a problem in our institutions, I appreciate the committee's starting point that we already know it is an obvious problem and the task at hand is to figure out what we're going to do about it in Oregon. I particularly appreciate that two of the Black members of the committee are co-chairs, Senator Manning and Rep Bynum are not only exemplary legislators, but have a lived experience of systemic racism and they should be at the helm.

I appreciate that immediately upfront we heard from Dr. Jacobs discussing systemic racism in our institutions as a public health problem. This is the kind of focus in policy that I think has been long ignored on a wide-scale in government level and I would really like to see this perspective front and center of the legislative decisions made.

I further appreciate the testimony of Dr. Moreland-Capuia around the importance of trauma-informed behavioral changes necessary in police culture to thoroughly address the necessary changes and the resistance to those changes not only at the policy level, but at the very source of the dysfunction within the culture of police bureaus.

These two presentations alone represent a shift to me in how we are addressing this issue. I hope to continue to see public health both physical and psychological, both for victims of the police's racist targeting, brutality, and violence, and for the police themselves who display evidence of unresolved psychological trauma in their inappropriate and/or dangerous responses to members of the community.

When testimonies such as those given by Marion County DDA Brendan Murphy, about what happened to Mr. Whippel, even separate from racism, law enforcement too often is allowed to abuse their power completely and blatantly and have absolutely no accountability legal or otherwise. I almost threw up hearing about what happened to this man at the hands of law enforcement. If this isn't direct evidence to support changes that Dr. Jacobs and Dr. Moreland-Capuia named and called for, I don't know what it is. If police are not held accountable for their actions it is a serious public health crisis. If those known to act in racist, negligent, brutal and even murderous ways are not held accountable, it potentially affects everyone in the community negatively, regardless of race.

I appreciated the testimony of Mr. German regarding how officers actively involved in white supremacists organizations and ideologies can be appropriately disciplined far before it comes to general public attention that they are on the police force. Because often by then, numerous acts of racial targeting and violence have occurred. I have often wondered, what are the policies around white supremacists in law enforcement? Can we root people out of the forces before they cause harm to the community? Can we change vetting and hiring practices so that those with these affiliations are not hired to begin with? Does being part of a white supremacist organization disqualify a person from serving as an officer? I think it should for multiple reasons that I'm sure people with more credibility than I can better explain, and I think there must be a way to craft policy that makes

it clear that that is the case. I would ask the committee to work on a policy such as this which would have real teeth and stand up to legal scrutiny.

Thank you for your service to Oregon, and your commitment to deeply regard the need for systemic change and taking your task as seriously as I saw today. I look forward to seeing the revolutionary change our community needs and deserves as you move forward.

Sincerely,

Megan Bradley