

From: [Hunter Spencer](#)
To: [Exhibits JTPUFR](#)
Subject: Statistical Transparency of Policing
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 11:15:42 AM

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

I am writing to submit testimony for the July 16th, 2020 Joint Committee Meeting.

I am a Multnomah County resident, of the 17th Senatorial District and 33rd House of Representatives District. I am also a primary care physician. In my professional role, I analyze complicated data, synthesize it and use it to make decisions and facilitate my patients' decision making. In medicine, I am accustomed to large, reliable and accessible datasets, often maintained by state institutions, which enable this process. That is why I have become frustrated with the lack of accessible data regarding incidents of police violence. The lack of clear and transparent data hinders my ability to understand the realities faced by my patients, particularly my patients of color, and my ability to thoughtfully advocate for change.

State level data is preferable to municipal level data because state law can supersede local city ordinances and policies, which are often subject to conflicts of interest. For example in Portland, Mayor Wheeler also serves as Police Commissioner. State authority overcomes such municipal difficulties. National level data is desirable, but recent legislation to develop such a data set has faced difficulty in consensus between the Senate and House. Please, do not abdicate your responsibility to the community leaders, policy makers, advocates and community members of our state.

Create a state level database to track all instances of police related violence which includes demographic data, location, time, identifiable (though it is reasonable to use an anonymous identifier) information regarding the officer, and nature of the incident (including charges alleged against the civilian) updated at least quarterly. Colorado recently passed similar state legislation that can be used as a model.

Data is a necessary but not sufficient tool to maintain appropriate accountability and consider reform. Give the people of Oregon access to reliable data to enable us to continue our effective work as citizens.

Sincerely,

Hunter C. Spencer, D.O.