

Hello,

My name is Claire and I am an Oregon resident. Like many others, I am continually concerned with the way police have dealt with protest lately, and shocked as I learn about decades of abuse in the system. Oregon is not free of the broader problems within the law enforcement and criminal justice system that plague the rest of the country. You all are in a unique position to help turn the tides. I email to encourage the members of this committee to introduce sweeping reforms to keep our state's most vulnerable people safe. We need stricter laws mandating body cams. We need resources shifted away from armed officers to other forms of support, such as mental health professionals and social workers. We need more community oversight and increased accountability for law enforcement officials who target minorities and protestors with impunity. We need strict penalties for officers who respond to peaceful protesters, who are exercising their constitutional rights, with violence and dehumanizing tactics. Please take the lead in discussing and implementing new policies so that we can start to address the systemic issues of profiling and violence that we now – more than ever – must acknowledge as facts of the system.

Thank you,

Claire