



July 24, 2020

Co-Chairs Senator Manning and Representative Bynum, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of OR, we respectfully request your support for Legislative Concept 743.

As has been suggested numerous times during the testimony heard by your Committee, it is time that we fashion policing with a paradigm of peace or community officers rather than law enforcement officers. Interestingly enough, our statutes refer to "peace officers" (ORS 133.05) which one might argue is sufficient to buttress the former model of policing, but unfortunately today's policing practices can often be insular, hierarchical and militaristic.

These negative models of policing are currently being starkly displayed by the federal authorities who were recently deployed in the City of Portland. It is clear that control and confrontation rather than communication inform their actions. We submit along with this testimony a copy of a Resolution adopted by AAUW of OR on July 22nd. It urges federal authorities to immediately cease the seizures and detentions of Oregon citizens and to remove themselves from the City of Portland.

LC 743 counters this trend and seeks to reinforce a more positive approach which honors the dignity of peace officers and the communities they serve. Standardized uniforms which consist of plain, light blue or white shirts and navy blue pants maintain the dignity of peace officers and are easily recognizable without being a visible symbol of militaristic authority. The requirement that officers, as employees of Oregon's citizens, clearly identify themselves similarly underscores the professionalism of the policing profession and its motto of service and protection.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Garner
State Public Policy Chair, AAUW of OR
Member, National AAUW Public Policy Committee
503-407-2341
garner37@mac.com