

Testimony on LC 744
29 July 2020

Co-chairs Manning, Bynum, and members of the committee,

I am writing to you in support of LC744. Police misconduct undermines our law enforcement agencies and hurts public trust in all officers. Current systems appear to be failing, and lack transparency required to regain broad support and trust. This damaged trust also hides the full scope of the misconduct as many cases go unreported, lacking confidence in the system to fairly police itself. This mistrust also makes it harder for police to solve crimes within our communities, and it makes their jobs more dangerous.

As a software developer, I appreciate being able to review the data which has been collected with public dollars. An open database, accessible to the public is a critical piece in ensuring that misconduct is being addressed, and that the public is able to participate in an informed manner. Currently, the public lacks access to this information. How can we evaluate the effects of public policy without access to public data?

My goal, and I hope the goal of this committee is to have confidence that Law Enforcement Officers are accountable for their conduct. As a member of the public, I do not have confidence that the Law Enforcement community is doing an effective job of policing itself. I urge this committee to work to establish an independent, state-level framework to provide accountability and transparency.

Thank you,

Tim Greiser
Portland, OR