

Good morning,

I am a Portland resident and have the following comment to provide on five of the police accountability legislative concepts being introduced this week. Thank you for the opportunity to participate and to the Joint Committee for advancing this work.

LC 742 – Weapons Law Enforcement are Approved to Use On Crowds (eg: “tear gas”)

The riot language in the bill passed during the June special session has proved to be a large loophole as riots are being declared more frequently and the use of tear gas continues unabated, to the extent that Commissioner Hardesty issued a letter to Chief of Police Lovell to immediately stop the use of tear gas and close-range munitions and clarify the process behind declaring an assembly “unlawful.” I ask for an outright ban on teargas, which is banned in war. I support the ban in indiscriminate use of impact munitions.

LC 743 – Police Uniforms and Identification

I support the enhanced requirement for officer identification.

LC 744 – Duty to Report Officer Misconduct

72 hours to report misconduct is too long and should be tightened to 24 hours. The bill should also require a duty to provide timely medical assistance. In the current version of the bill it seems unclear what is required of the Department of Justice (DOJ) when they receive a complaint. The bill should create a duty for DOJ to investigate and require the outcomes of that investigation to be publicly available.

LC 745 – Limitations on chokeholds

Chokeholds are still authorized when “deadly force” is authorized, but Oregon has the least restrictive limits on deadly force in the entire country. The Legislature must update the deadly force statutes to only allow deadly force as an absolute last resort to stop life threatening injury to another. The addition of all officers is an improvement.

LC 746 – Revamping arbitration

Requiring appointment of unbiased arbitrators and instituting a “reasonable person” standard of review are improvements.

No Concept Currently Proposed, but Joint Committee should pursue:

- End Qualified Immunity for law enforcement officers. Officers acting outside of established policy should be held liable for their actions.
- Bring deadly force statute into line with [United Nations recommendations](#). Deadly force is currently authorized against people fleeing nonviolent crimes!