

Senator Manning, Representative Bynum, and members of the committee,

My name is Katelyn Best and I live in Portland. I am writing to express my support for LCs 746 and 748. Oregonians must be able to hold police officers statewide accountable for their actions via an impartial, transparent process that police unions do not get a say in designing. This is a vital step toward protecting all Oregonians, especially people of color, from abuses of power by police officers.

I grew up in Eugene in the 2000s, the time period when Eugene police officers Juan Lara and Roger Magaña raped dozens of women in my city. When I attended South Eugene High School, officer Stefan Zeltvay was South's school resource officer; after I graduated, he was found guilty of sexual harassment, and while he was being investigated, it came to light that female officers had known for years to steer clear of Zeltvay, who they called "Creep," according to the Register-Guard. In short, it is apparent to me that police officers protect their own, and that police unions cannot be trusted to contribute to discipline guides or matrices during collective bargaining. I believe it is also crucial that records of disciplinary actions against officers are freely available to the public so that officers who abuse their power can be held accountable.

Sincerely,
Katelyn Best