

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

My name is Debbie Wong. I live in West Linn. I thank you all again for drafting bills to address the issues of police brutality and lack of accountability.

I fully support LC 746 and LC 748. I have some comments as follows.

LC 746: I strongly support this measure as a step towards removing discipline from collective bargaining. Requiring law enforcement agencies & arbitrators to comply with uniform standards established by the commission separate from collective bargaining is a tremendous improvement. Police accountability should never be enabled to be bargained away and this has historically been a tremendous problem protecting officers guilty of misconduct and ultimately empowering police to do what they want, with little fear of discipline or career consequences. The DC Council has recently passed legislation banning the inclusion of all matters pertaining to the discipline of police in collective bargaining. I hope OR will continue to head in this direction also. Police accountability should be non-negotiable. I also wanted to make sure that those in leadership positions are required to comply with the standards to be established also. They're not typically part of union contracts so don't know if this would exempt them in their individual contracts.

LC 748: I strongly support the broadening of the category of disciplinary action to be reported and maintained in a database as many officers guilty of serious misconduct have never had their license suspended or revoked due to a broken system and this information will help prevent bad apples from moving around to different departments. In addition, I strongly feel misconduct should never be allowed to be expunged from personnel files.

On a separate but related issue, I feel that police departments should incorporate early warning systems to catch problems early, allowing for early intervention to modify behavior and prevent further escalation to formal disciplinary actions.

I thank the council for their time and consideration and allowing me to give input.

Respectfully,

Debbie Wong