

Chair Bynum and Chair Manning and members of the Joint Committee On Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform, for the record my name is Glenda Golter and I live in West Linn (Clackamas County) where we are dealing with an ongoing investigation into racism within our own police department. As a community, state and country we can no longer turn a blind eye to the racism that is poisoning our society. Thank you for drafting these bills to help address the racism that has been taking place in the Oregon police departments.

I'd like to speak specifically to LC 748. Transparency is an essential step to breaking down systemic racism. It was a lack of transparency that allowed the racist and illegal treatment of Michael Fesser to go essentially unnoticed by our community until he sued the city. There's no doubt that Mr. Fesser is part of a long list of people of color who have been abused by the West Linn police department. It's only because Mr. Fesser had the means to bring the city to court that this particular situation shed light on these events and got the attention of our community. With the passage of bills such as LC748, it is my hope that we will create an environment in Oregon police departments in which individuals are held accountable for racist behavior. I also hope that more transparency will lead to a healthier system where this type of behavior is not allowed to go unnoticed.

Sincerely,

Glenda Golter