

Dear Joint Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform,

I am writing to provide testimony regarding **LC 746** and **LC 748**. We absolutely must start holding our police officers to a higher standard. The police officers in our state are given a lot of discretion, with little repercussions when the use of that discretion (consciously or not) harms community members. In particular, when officers which have a record of causing harm they are allowed to continue in their role (or get re-instated). Regardless of the harm they do, officers are often protected by other officers and the police unions. Being a police officer is not the same kind of work that other labor unions provide support for. These are people whose "work" allows them to restrict the freedoms of citizens they encounter in the street. The stakes are just too high here to not have highest level of scrutiny on officers, *even if* we were to assume good intent. We're talking about citizen's lives and freedom. Therefore, we must have an outside system of accountability, and it must be transparent and all info about officer conduct available to the public.

This is the absolute least we can do.

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