

To the Joint Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform,

I am writing in support of the package of legislative concepts under discussion before this committee: LC 742, LC 743, LC 745, LC 751, LC 761, LC 762, and LC 763. I feel they are actionable, specific, and a decent start to real transformation of policing in Oregon.

Since the start of the protests in the wake of the killing of George Floyd, I have sporadically joined and each time I have learned more both about the importance of this movement and the long-term nature of the organizing. I have also seen and experienced first hand the over-reaction by law enforcement--or what I assumed to be law enforcement as they were, at times, not clearly identified.

I have been tear-gassed for the first time in my life. I've been to many protests and demonstrations over many topics. I am Quaker and have a deep value in nonviolent action and speaking truth to power. But I had no idea that racism is so deeply rooted that it needs such a defense. Tear gas is the act of people who do not want to listen, who do not want to talk, who do not want to understand and will defend their fear of others with violence.

And as horrible as tear gas is, choke holds and other uses of deadly force are a power move that denies humanity.

Please support these legislative concepts. They are a meager next step to the true transformational change our society needs.

Thank you for your attention,

Sabrina Freewynn

District 23