

To whom it may concern,

For the past two months we've seen an unprecedented response to the state of policing in the country, but especially in Portland. In response, we've seen an unprecedented response by the public offices ostensibly under oath to protect us. I'm writing as a white, middle-class man concerned about the underprivileged members of our community that see the bulk of injustice at the hands of the police.

The measures presented today are good incremental steps forward. However, they do nothing to protect the citizens of Oregon in the moments the injustice occurs.

- * Telling officers who have committed acts of injustice not in the future IS NOT sufficient to prevent more injustice.

- * Making it easier for victims and observers to document the officers committing injustices IS NOT sufficient to prevent injustice in the future.

- * Leaving the judgement of use of force up to officers who have a history of abusing their authority IS NOT sufficient to prevent injustice.

- * Public reporting reviewed annually on injustices committed IS NOT sufficient to prevent injustice.

These measures ultimately do not protect the most vulnerable among us without strong action to back them up. That action MUST be the termination and ex-communication of officers who have a history of abuse. The police forces of Oregon must not be allowed to rehire dishonorable officers, and must not be allowed to hire officers from outside the state with a verifiable history of abuse.

If there truly are "just a few bad apples" then, in order to save the entire barrel, they must be purged and prevented from poisoning the whole thing. This should not be a controversial position to hold, and in fact should be actively welcomed by the upstanding police officers and support staff in every precinct.

It's clear a cultural shift is impossible from within, so I encourage each member of the state legislature to take the action necessary to enforce that change externally. We are all watching the choice you make.

- Patrick Kennedy