

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

My name is Caitlin, and I live in Portland. I'm emailing this committee in advance of today's 10am session to submit the following testimony.

For more than two months, I've personally witnessed and experienced the heinous, routine use of force by the Portland Police Bureau against those exercising their first amendment right to protest the systemic racism embedded in US policing. This inexcusable use of force has included the use of tear gas, projectiles, and sound canons. Members of the PPB have also hidden their personnel information when it was requested of them and used chokeholds and strangulation to violate the constitutional rights of Portlanders. It is this unchecked, unconstitutional behavior that's turned our city's peaceful protests into violent nightmares night after night.

It is with this personal experience and awareness in mind that I implore this committee to act on these two, urgent recommendations from Black-led organizations here in Oregon: contribute state funding to community-led safety efforts instead of policing **and** pass policies that end qualified immunity and prohibit police from using force to abuse our communities. Anything less will only exacerbate the problem and do more harm.

Black lives matter. Ensure that the actions you take as a committee reflect that.

Sincerely,
Caitlin