

As a resident of Portland, I have been horrified to see numerous videos of Portland Police, Oregon State Troopers, and federal agents blatantly abusing their power to inflict serious injuries to peaceful protestors. These agents of state violence have been shown time and again to disregard protocols, laws, and common decency in their mission to cause the maximum possible physical injury and suffering to peaceful, unarmed protestors, and thereby to chill the exercise of the protestors' First Amendment rights. Most egregious in these actions is the deliberate targeting by police of press and medics, which has been clearly displayed in many videos from the last 80+ days.

The importance of the laws you are considering on September 3rd cannot be overstated--they will make the difference between an active, vibrant democracy, and a repressive, violent state of the kind we are used to seeing in Eastern Europe and that we, as Americans, profess to despise.

Do your duty to protect the democracy we hold dear in this country: bring back the teeth to the completely gutted LC 742 (LC 17), and put in place real protections for the exercise of free speech. Require police to display identifying information, require agencies to release information related to complaints of excessive force and identify patterns of misconduct by peace officers, and ensure the well-being of arrestees.

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