

Dear Oregon State Legislators,

I am writing in support of the legislature passing bills LC 17, 18, 19, and 20 with the goal of increasing transparency and accountability for police throughout our state and restraining police brutality. I am a pastor of two Methodist churches in Sherwood, Oregon, and have been personal witness to multiple instances of police brutality against protesters and people of color in my community. We urgently need legislation that allows the public to hold police accountable for their actions and deal with the real issues of public safety.

In particular I want to lift up LC 17 and LC 19 as worthy of your support.

LC 17 would directly and immediately decrease the amount of violence on our streets every night by restraining the primary source of that violence - police that are out of control and attacking unarmed civilians. CS Gas is a chemical weapon banned in warfare. It has no place on our streets. It has poisoned our parks. Filled apartment complexes. Tormented incarcerated persons when it pours into their cells and they have no means of egress. Our police are not supposed to be a militarized invasive force.

Meanwhile LC 19 would allow us to hold officers accountable for their past behavior and to help ensure that officers don't simply get moved around or promoted when there is misconduct on their record. The next appropriate step would be to enable us to revoke their peace officer license permanently.

I urge you, for the sake of public safety, for the sake of justice, and for the sake of the soul of our state to call a legislative session in September and pass these bills.

Rev. Aric Clark

Pastor Sherwood and Mt. Home United Methodist Churches