



September 2, 2020

Co-Chairs Senator Manning and Representative Bynum, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of OR, we respectfully wish to express our support for LC's 19 and 20.

These LC's represent significant steps forward in holding the police enforcement community accountable, while respecting the challenges and professionalism with which many officers carry out their jobs. It is clear that the Committee has given close attention not just to the policy fundamentals but also the practical details.

So often police misconduct has not received the attention that it deserves. It goes without saying that without full but fair disclosure, neither the public nor fellow officers are able to gauge what misconduct allegations are true or not, or serious or not. The officers who do commit misconduct seem to continue their careers without appropriate discipline, and the officers who do a good job of protecting our communities don't receive sufficient positive recognition.

The databases provided in these LC's are comprehensive but realistic. For example, instead of defining disciplinary actions as those involving "economic consequences" as stated in LC 748 / 7-22-2020 Draft, LC 19 takes particular care to clarify what that phrase means. Importantly, LC 19 recognizes the importance of reporting both criminal and civil proceedings related to officers' jobs, and acts of deception, dishonesty or misrepresentation.

LC 19's modification of the crime of tampering with public records and the creation of the crime of reckless tampering with public records will go a long way to build public trust in the factual basis of misconduct investigations.

LC 20 recognizes the critical need for the availability of records regarding the use of physical force and deaths of people in custody, but it is also respectful of the need for some level of officer confidentiality by requiring the Commission to substitute an individualized randomized number for an officer's certification number.

These LC's will go a long way to underscoring the "peace" in "peace officer," and that the police serve and protect the community and not the other way around.

Respectfully submitted,

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