

Oregon Legislators,

My name is Sarah Rohrs. I live in Salem, Oregon.

Four important pieces of legislation related to community policing, and restraint of police violence are coming before the Oregon Legislature.

This is one of the more significant opportunities to pass meaningful, impactful legislation related to police restraint since the murder of George Floyd.

I stand in solidarity with the Police Reform Network and the Pacific Northwest Family Circle, composed of people who have lost loved ones to police brutality and violence, in supporting these bills.

I support the legislature passing these bills to increase accountability, and decrease the use of police force in responding to situations. All disciplinary records for all state police officers should be made public, and all court proceedings and related investigations should be made available for public review to increase accountability.

Police should be constrained in their ability to use crowd control weapons, such as chemical dispersals, pepper balls and rubber bullets. Police should also not be immune from civil liability when responding to crowd events called "riots."

In addition, police should be required to wear identification visible from 25 feet away, including name, badge and department; and should respond to requests for identification when called. Police conduct bills passed earlier this summer should be reinforced and expanded.

I support Black Lives Matter and a broader reimagining of community safety, starting with these bills the Legislature will consider in its next session.

Thank you,

Sarah Rohrs