

To: All Oregon Lawmakers

Re: Proposals Concerning Policing in Oregon

In light of the events unfolding within our state and across the nation, it is paramount that Oregon set and follow an example for policing that honors Legislative Concept 742 and 743. We can more than adequately protect our communities while affirming the right to peaceful protest.

Frankly, the restrictions outlined in 742 and 743 would in no way hamper effective police action. When the actions of our police become a threat to community safety, their role garners mistrust and fear. Eliminating the use of "chemical incapacitants" (tear gas) and severely limiting the use of rubber bullets, which have caused harm, would strengthen the effectiveness of law enforcement, not weaken it. Using force against journalist, legal observers, and medical personnel should be prohibited; Oregon citizens have been shocked to learn that journalists, legal observers, and medical workers have been endangered rather than protected by the police. No officer should be permitted to obscure their name tags or identification in any way. Chokeholds are unnecessary and should be banned, period. These are common sense measures and will go a long way to re-establish public trust in law enforcement.

I urge the Oregon legislature to take action to affirm the proposals in Legislative Concept 742 and 743. Thank you.

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