

Testimony

I am writing in passionate support of Bills LC 17, 18, 19 and 20. I support these bills because I am persuaded that the extreme level of police brutality taking place against protestors in Portland will not change without oversight on a state level.

Almost every night, for almost 100 days, I have sat up until the early hours of the morning, watching live streams of the protests. **I've wondered if it is possible to become so inured to violence that I will no longer cringe when I see a police officer tackle a protester, smash his head on the ground, tear off his gas mask, and spray pepper spray right in his face.**

Night after night, I've watched men and women invested by the state with the power to protect and serve use their power to charge against protesters, bellow often-conflicting commands, push protesters to the ground, kick them, beat them with batons. They have randomly shot canisters of gas or rubber bullets into a crowd. I see the physical evidence of these attacks: stitches, large welts, lots of blood. **I am astonished that the restraints of LC 17 have not yet been enacted and urge you to move swiftly to put these in place.**

Then I watch arrests being made with no explanation of the charges against the arrestee. When protesters ask police officers for names or badge numbers, they are met with silence, or worse, cruel laughter. I believe **LC 18 is critical to the preservation of individual rights, as well as the protection and sense of security of any individual who must face an officer.**

ALL these bills are of significant importance to the continuance of a democratic society. I urge you to pass them as quickly as possible.

Sincerely yours,

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