

Testimony LC 17, 18, 19, 20, and 746

Dear Co-chairs Senator Manning and Representative Bynum and Members of the Committee:

My name is Debbie Wong. I live in West Linn. Thank you all again for working on bills to address injustice and police accountability. I support LC 17, 18, 19, 20, and LC 746. I have additional comments as follows:

LC 19- I support the database and the transparency it will provide. In addition, I believe there should be an associated auditing entity to identify problematic police departments based on the data obtained with the authority to conduct independent investigation of problematic police departments & impose corrective action. Currently there does not seem to be mention of how the data will be used.

LC 746- I strongly support the uniform establishment of high standards of conduct and disciplinary standards. The makeup of the commission as described in LC 746 has legitimacy as compared to LC 751.

For future legislation, I would like to ask the committee to consider mandating accreditation of law enforcement agencies through CALEA which maintains high standards of practice based on best practices and data and more importantly an auditing element to insure implementation and adherence. It is not the end all, but will be another step in the right direction as many police department policies are shaped by forces with the goal of having the lowest standard of conduct to minimize liability vs to maximize public safety. This is evident in the policies in the West Linn police department as compared to an agency such as the WA county sheriffs department which is accredited by CALEA.

I thank the council for their time and consideration and allowing me the opportunity to give input.

Respectfully,

Debbie Wong