

## Testimony for the Joint Committee On Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a resident of Portland I am writing in support of LC 17, LC 18, LC 19, LC 20, and LC 746. I support this committee's mission in their attempts to improve our communities and the safety of us all. I emphasize the need to eliminate qualified immunity for police to enable bad actors to be held responsible for their actions. I urge you to listen to the public and to represent our concerns in the legislature. Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

**LC 17:** I am a chemist who has worked professionally in environmental health and safety. I have overseen the safe and responsible use of many chemicals with particularly hazardous properties including ones which were extremely toxic, pyrophoric (catch fire on exposure to air), explosive, lachrymators, potent carcinogens, and highly radioactive chemicals. I am *\*appalled\** at the widespread use of chemical weapons against our state's residents.

It absolutely sickens me to see the widespread deployment of toxic chemicals onto people and into our environment. I can conceive of scenarios to justify the occasional use of such agents, but the way they have been and are being deployed is reckless and inappropriate. It boggles my mind that large quantities of toxic substances are knowingly and willfully being dumped into heavily populated and trafficked areas without regard for the health and environmental consequences. It is disgustingly irresponsible. Even without considering the moral and legal considerations of unrestrained police brutality, this practice must be stopped.

Police in our state (notably in Portland) have shown carelessness in their use kinetic impact projectiles. If they have been properly trained in their use, this is not evident in how such implements have been deployed. The sheer number of head shots, eye shots, chest shots, and dangerously close-range shots make it clear that these officers either are acting with explicit disregard for the safety of citizens or are so undisciplined that they should not be serving as law enforcement officers. The use of these munitions must be restrained.

My only concern with this bill is that it does not more severely penalize misuse of these weapons. Official misconduct in the first degree is merely a Class A misdemeanor. Shooting someone in the head with a kinetic impact round is much closer to attempted murder or assault with a deadly weapon. This is a slap on the wrist for actions which show blatant disregard for human life. I support this bill.

**LC18:** It is essential that police be identifiable by the public so that they can be held to account for their actions. A number alone is not a sufficient identifier. Imagine a scenario where you are the victim of unjustified police brutality. Your head is spinning and the officer is leaving the incident but you want to identify them to report it. Would it be easier to remember "P54263" or "J. Smith" if it were written on the officer's uniform? I contend that a name provides much more useful information in allowing a citizen to remember the identifier than a nondescript serial number. I support this bill.

**LC19:** I support this bill. Making disciplinary records accessible is essential to public accountability of police misconduct. The extent of tolerance for misconduct and corruption within the polices makes it evident that the public must have access to the information necessary to oversee police misconduct.

**LC 20:** I support this bill. I am surprised that this is not already required.

**LC 746:** I strongly support this bill. Allowing police who have engaged in misconduct and criminal behavior to circumvent punishment via arbitration is inappropriate. It is one of many mechanisms by which the “bad apples” in police are allowed to further corrupt and undermine the public respect for law enforcement.

**LC 747, 821, and 825:** Without the drafts, I cannot comment specifically on the matter contained. However, I am strongly in support of eliminating qualified immunity for police. Qualified immunity is a central part of the reason there is such lack of accountability and injustice related to the crimes committed by police. Without justice, the rule of law is undermined. We must hold all citizens accountable for their actions. Police serve to enforce the law but are not above the law.

Regards,

Brandon Cisneros, Ph.D.