

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

To whom it may concern,

I'm a Portland resident.

It is important to remember that these protests are about lack of accountability from police. That is where they began and why they have continued for almost 100 nights. Accountability is what it will take to make them end.

It shouldn't be particularly controversial to acknowledge that there are major, systemic problems with American policing. Even with protests taking place across America, police have been unwilling or unable to stop brutalizing and killing American citizens, secure in the knowledge that they will face no meaningful consequences. Here in Portland, we see them targeting medics and press. They puncture tires from vehicles that are obeying commands to leave the area. They remove helmets and beat people who are fully restrained. And they face no consequences.

Those who do not support abolishing or defunding the police say that we can address these issues without tearing down the system of policing that currently exists. If that is what you believe, then this is your opportunity to prove it. I urge you to hold the police accountable for their actions. If you believe that this system can be fixed, then please do the work required to fix it.

Ryan Bernstein