

Please pass LC 17, 18, 19, 20

Greetings,

I am writing to submit written testimony in support of LC 17, 18, 19 and 20 in a legislative session in September.

I am a teacher and a mother, and I live 7 blocks from the Penumbra Kelly MCSO building in Portland. Last weekend I listened in my backyard as the LRAD threatened teargas and impact munitions over and over and over again. I turned on a livestream of the protest and later watched as FIVE police officers held a man down in the middle of the street while one of those officers punched him repeatedly. I also watched officers that same night shoot pepper balls indiscriminately into a distant crowd which was not resisting or violent. Night after night I have watched the police rush at the protesters, tackling and arresting them with seemingly no rhyme or reason. On Sunday night it was, "Arrest everyone who isn't press." That's what they said.

Somehow, my neighborhood has escaped the use of teargas thus far, but my gardening friends near East Precinct are concerned about the effects of CS gas on their gardens, not to mention on the protesters who are already experiencing the cumulative effects of this chemical weapon being used against them night after night.

For nearly 100 days, Portlanders have been taking to our streets in protest to scream that Black lives matter. And they have been met with the same police brutality against which they protest. No wonder they are angry. This madness has got to stop.

I request that a legislative session be called in September, and, at that session, that the Oregon Legislature vote LC 17, 18, 19 and 20 into law. LC 17 is necessary because I have seen with my own eyes the senseless and indiscriminate violence by police upon protesters in Portland. LC 18 is crucial so that officers can be identified and feel a greater sense of personal accountability for their actions. LC 19 and 20 further hold officers accountable, and assure that a record of their behavior and misconduct follows them into the future.

These bills in concert are a powerful step forward for Oregon. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Susannah Reese
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