

Statement in support of bills LC 742 (LC 17), LC 743 (LC 18), LC 762 (LC 19) & LC 763 (LC 20)

Dear Joint Committee On Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform members and staff,

I am writing in support of bills [LC 742 \(LC 17\)](#), [LC 743 \(LC 18\)](#), [LC 762 \(LC 19\)](#), and [LC 763 \(LC 20\)](#). People should be free to access their first right amendment rights to assemble and exercise freedom of speech without fear of force, which has not been the case in recent protests in Portland (and I believe other cities in Oregon as well) since June 2020. Several of my unarmed friends have endured poorly executed mass dispersals, tear gas, and excess use of force, including being shoved to the ground **as they were retreating per police instructions** by the Portland Police Bureau.

Each night they go out to express their support for equity and justice risks more serious consequences, and **this should not be the case**. Rubber bullets and pepper balls are barely lethal and quite serious. A friend was shot in the leg just above the knee cap by Federal Agents, breaking the skin and leaving a large red welt at least several inches wide across his leg. Had he been shot a few inches lower in the knee, results would have been even more serious. Having police show up in riot gear armed with impact munitions ups the ante unnecessarily and only exacerbates problems and distrust. Increasing capacity at medical facilities during a global pandemic through these misdiscretions is also unconscionable. Furthermore, immunity from these indiscretions and inability to quickly identify officers makes it much more difficult to enforce these policies and increases public distrust.

As public officers, accountability helps to ensure increased safety for everyone, offers opportunities to address gaps in training, implementation, and assessment, and works to build public trust. As this testimonial in support of these bills is made public to increase transparency in decision-making processes, misconduct records and use-of-force reports should also be accessible to the public. As police services and staff members are paid in part by public taxes, and as these officers and bureaus hold public-facing positions and a significant amount of power, accountability and transparency should be a top priority in improving systems and community relations.

Thank you for your consideration of my statement. Please support bills [LC 742 \(LC 17\)](#), [LC 743 \(LC 18\)](#), [LC 762 \(LC 19\)](#), and [LC 763 \(LC 20\)](#).

Thank you,

Kelly Ann Chee
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