

Transparent Policing & Use of Force Reform

To the Joint Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform,

I am a constituent who lives in North Portland, 97203, and I am writing to express great concern about the function of policing in my city, in this state, and in this country.

Please look at every possible way to reign in police powers and protect Portland residents from police violence and overreach.

In particular, please consider legislating the strict requirement that ALL police wear easy to see/read identification on their person any time they are in uniform and interacting with the public, no matter the occasion. Such identification is essential to bringing real accountability, and when citizens cannot identify the officer(s) they are interacting with, it limits their ability to recognize repeat aggressors and/or report any abuses or indiscretions that might occur.

I also ask that this committee carefully consider the role of qualified immunity, and who it truly protects. Please help us start to change the way police are held accountable, especially in the times that they fail to meet professional, ethical, and safety-minded standards. At this time, it is very difficult to pursue any accountability to police officers who act out of bounds and it needs to change in the interest of protecting ALL who come into contact with them.

As a Portland, Oregon resident, I am deeply concerned about how policing is currently conducted and I beg our legislators to use every tool at their disposal to help rewrite the culture, role, safety, and trustworthiness of police in our state.

Thank you,
Rebecca Mair Lowery
Portland OR 97203