

Hello, My name is Diana Rempe. I am a Community Psychologist who works on the street with people experiencing houselessness. I live in Multnomah County.

I want to say thank you to Chair Bynum and the entire committee for their hard work on this matter. I strongly support these measures to hold police accountable including those in legislative concepts 743, 743, 762, and 763. I have observed many incidents of police brutality and misconduct while attending protests in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. There was no way of identifying the police officers who brutalized protestors exercising their rights of free speech because they were not wearing identification. Furthermore it was often hard to tell if they were even with the Portland Police Bureau or federal agencies, particularly at night. These officers were cloaked in secrecy and had no accountability.

It would also be extremely helpful to have a public database of police misconduct. I also support the requirement to file use of force reports. And qualified immunity must end for police officers.

I urge you to make sure that there are severe penalties for not complying with these laws. I worry that police departments will race to destroy records of misconduct before they can be made public. Please include language that will prevent this from happening.

I also urge you to consider these steps as a great start, but still only a start. So much more needs to be done. We need to reimagine policing. We should scale back the scope of policing. We should embrace conflict resolution and non-police response in as many situations as possible. The CAHOOTS model in Eugene is a great example. We also must remember that policing is not an end to itself, but rather a means to the end of safety and security for our communities. Focusing on health care, housing, nutrition, education, open spaces, libraries, and recreation are much better investments in true security and well being.

Please continue your good work, pass these bills and continue to take bold steps. We need true independent oversight and real discipline for officer misconduct. The policies and culture of policing need to change radically. We should extensively defund the police--at the state and municipal levels--and reinvest that money in our communities, with a focus on BIPOC communities, who continue to be disproportionately negatively affected by policing.

Thank you,

Diana Rempe, PhD