

MMC

Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium

May 7, 2019

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senator Kim Thatcher, Vice-Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee

Mayor Denny Doyle
City of Beaverton

Mayor Brian Hodson
City of Canby

Mayor Jeffrey Dalin
City of Cornelius

Mayor Gery Schirado
City of Durham

Mayor Brian Cooper
City of Fairview

Mayor Peter Truax
City of Forest Grove

Mayor Shane Bemis
City of Gresham

Mayor Tom Ellis
City of Happy Valley

Mayor Steve Callaway
City of Hillsboro

Mayor Ken Gibson
City of King City

Mayor Kent Studebaker
City of Lake Oswego

Mayor Mark Hardie
City of Maywood Park

Mayor Mark Gamba
City of Milwaukie

Mayor Teri Lenahan
City of North Plains

Mayor Dan Holladay
City of Oregon City

Mayor Ted Wheeler
City of Portland

Mayor Walt Williams
City of Rivergrove

Mayor Keith Mays
City of Sherwood

Mayor Jason Snider
City of Tigard

Mayor Casey Ryan
City of Troutdale

Mayor Frank Bubenik
City of Tualatin

Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle
City of Vancouver (ex officio)

Mayor Russ Axelrod
City of West Linn

Mayor Tim Knapp
City of Wilsonville

Mayor Scott Harden
City of Wood Village

Re: Support for HB 3216 A

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium (MMC) represents the mayors of twenty-five cities in the Portland Metro Area, collectively home to over 1.7 million Oregonians. The MMC writes to express its strong support for HB 3216 A, which would create a civil cause of action for a person injured by another person unlawfully summoning a police officer.

Law enforcement officers are essential to maintaining public safety in MMC cities, and the police departments of many cities struggle with inadequate funding. The finite time and resources of law enforcement officers must be reserved for situations where there is a real threat of harm to members of the community. As highlighted by recent press coverage, in some situations, the police are called because of bias and discrimination rather than because any real danger is present, drawing precious law enforcement resources away from real public safety needs.

HB 3216 would create a civil remedy for unlawfully summoning a police officer, thereby allowing people to be held accountable for their actions without criminal consequences. All individuals should have the right to seek justice if someone calls the police on them with the intent to harass, embarrass or humiliate them or otherwise infringe upon their rights. Such incidents can deeply and negatively affect vulnerable communities and damage people's reputations and economic interests.

The MMC asks the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to pass HB 3216 to the Senate Floor to protect the members of our communities and the resources of our law enforcement departments. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium