

Dear Senator Prozanski,

I am retired Gresham Police Sergeant with 33 years on the job. I have worked several assignment during my career including as a Supervisor with the Transit Police Division.

While I was assigned to the Transit Division our police officers responded to several absolutely senseless acts of violence against our passengers. To give you some specific examples of the vicious attacks, during my time assigned to the Transit Division.

I remember a young black beaten uncounious because he didn't have a spare cigarette, we had two high school girls severally beaten cause they had shopping bags and lastly there was a retired school teacher in town with her husband for valentine's day when she was dragged off the Max and thrown onto the tracks just for asking a group of young people to stop swearing. These are just a few examples and there is no telling how many more violent act didn't occur because of police officers had a visual presence or were assisting with fare inspection.

Fare inspection have nothing to do with "targeting" a specific group of people. During a fare inspection, everyone on board is asked to product a ticket. TriMet dose a great job of trying to accommodate peoples specific needs with a variety of passes such as "Honored Citizens" and student passes.

HB 4097 would prohibit police officers from assist TriMet fare inspectors. How can you and the other repersentives make it so TriMet employees with no police authority be denied police protection when they need assistance.

Ridership on TriMet is down because people don't feel safe on the system. I have talked to lots of people who express fear of being harmed or confronted with threats of violence, so they don't ride TriMet. It only takes one horrible incident to alter lives forever. Are you really willing to risk the lives of our loved ones!?

I am shocked and appalled that you and the other elected politicians would gamble with the safety and security of the public. The majority of people who ride TriMet want a police presence, especially after the Jeremy Christian murders, so do you actually believe this is a good idea?

Please vote no on the insane proposal,

Sincerely yours,

Terry O'Keefe