

I'm a resident of Eugene writing in to support changes to law to reduce police violence and create better accountability for instances of police violence.

My representative is Nancy Nathanson, and my Senator is James Manning.

Black Lives Matter, and we need to institute means to ensure accountability for police who do violence against our BIPOC community members, especially. It is time for real substantial legislation, not studies and half-measures. In the recent protests in Eugene, I saw several nights of video of police misconduct and violence in our city, against largely peaceful protesters, including disproportionate use of force, like officers rolling around the corner and opening fire with "less lethal" rounds against people who were simply walking down the street after curfew, with no attempt to even verify that people were not exempt from curfew. I saw video tear gas being used in Eugene against peaceful protesters (during a pandemic of a respiratory disease!) This was troubling to me, and another sign that this is an issue everywhere; we can't assume that our local agencies will not be the next ones to cause a national scandal if one of our officers kills a person of color. The below bills are in the right ballpark of serious measures to address these issues. Please ensure that limitations on use of chokeholds are not watered down like the national legislation proposed by US Sen. Tim Scott which allows loopholes if officers say they felt threatened. Let's make some real change. Please also consider redirecting substantial budget funding from police agencies to community support programs such as the excellent CAHOOTS team we have here in Eugene. All Oregon cities should have a well-funded resource like CAHOOTS.

HB 4201: Requires deaths and certain injuries caused by police to be reported to the Attorney General
HB 4203 Disallows police to use force that limits a person's ability to breathe, including, but not limited to chokeholds.

HB 4205 Requires a police officer to intervene when they see another cop engaging in "act that is unethical or that violates law, rules or policy."

HB 4207 Establishes a state-wide database of policy disciplinary records. Makes that database public.

HB 4208 Prohibits use of teargas and sonic weapons.