

Greetings,

First of all I would like to thank you for your quick action in considering these bills. I strongly support these bills as a basic start to addressing some of the systemic racism and abuse of power in our criminal justice system in Oregon.

Now, on to the specific issues:

Please vote to support HB 4201, which requires deaths and certain injuries caused by police to be reported to the Attorney General. As a citizen, I have serious concerns about our lack of transparency in policing in Oregon.

Please vote to support HB 4203, which disallows police to use force that limits a person's ability to breathe, including, but not limited to chokeholds. There is no reason in 2020 for such barbaric tactics that so frequently result in death.

Please vote to support HB 4205, which requires a police officer to intervene when they see another cop engaging in "act that is unethical or that violates law, rules or policy.". As a wife of a former public safety officer, I know that 'good' police do not always report bad police.

Please vote to support HB 4207, which establishes a state-wide database of policy disciplinary records and makes that database public. The public deserves to know what is happening, who is re-hired, and how misdeeds are disciplined. A Citizen Police Auditor in Eugene was a whistleblower around the abuses and injustices in Eugene Police Department (EPD) in this area.

Please vote to support HB 4208, which prohibits use of teargas and sonic weapons. I am from Eugene Oregon and we have EPD shooting teargas (ES gas) directly at a journalist who identified himself as a member of the credentialed press (press was specifically allowed within the curfew area by order of the city manager). The use of chemical weapons violate the Geneva Convention, but are being used on peaceful protestors who violate a curfew. In addition to supporting HB 4208 please take this to the next logical step and prohibit the use of rubber and pepper munitions as well. And make a strong stance about the unlawful curfews and some rules about when a protest can be deemed 'unlawful'. I witnessed dozens of abuses of these policies used as excuses to violate the civil liberties of BIPOC youth in my community, firing on them with chemical and rubber munitions, as well as firing at and tear gassing completely uninvolved bystanders and neighborhoods. The police of this state have proven they are unable to properly handle these type of munitions. I've seen the head wounds of people who were shot in Portland with rubber bullets when police fired indiscriminately in a crowd. Appalling ! Draconian! President Trump used this same tactic to clear away a protesting crowd for his famed photo op, to righteous outrage. Not even the generals supported that move. Please make me proud to be an Oregonian again and reign in this out of control militaristic force that has been set upon our own peaceful citizens by city managers and police chiefs who don't seem to understand the basic concept of civil liberties and first amendment rights.

The eyes of our state are on you. Black Lives Matter is not just a slogan. Please choose to be on the right side of history.