



Dear Legislators,

We, the Young Democrats of Oregon and over 200 co-signers from over 40 different cities, urge you to pass meaningful legislation to make police departments across our state accountable to the people they are sworn to protect. The murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, as well as subsequent incidents of police violence against demonstrators have exemplified to our state and nation what young people--especially young Black Americans--have been saying for decades about unchecked police power. **We affirm that Black lives matter and that an injury to one is an injury to all, and demand that you move decisively to address the ongoing emergency of police violence. An important first step is to pass SB 1604.**

Right now, law enforcement officers in Oregon are able to take advantage of inconsistent standards allowing for nominal punishments to be given out in disciplinary situations. For example, in 2014, Portland Police Captain Todd Wyatt used this weakness to restore his rank after a review board found him guilty of inappropriately touching female employees and brandishing his gun and badge during a road rage incident. In 2012, the board recommended that Wyatt be fired, but then-Chief Mike Reese merely demoted him to Lieutenant, and an arbitrator reversed his demotion just two years later.

SB 1604 provides for the creation of disciplinary guides for law enforcement officers and prohibits deviation by arbitrators from disciplinary guides. This means that elected officials, government agencies, and police chiefs will have greater ability to shape standardized disciplinary practices for law enforcement officers. SB 1604 also rightly declares that the acts it contains are immediately necessary for the protection of "peace, health, and safety," so that its provisions may be made effective immediately.

**While important, SB 1604 is not a cure-all. Much work remains to be done to solve institutional racism and violence in policing.** Other bills, such as LC 78, which creates a centralized database of Oregon law enforcement disciplinary records, are also in the works, and should be passed, too. Yet SB 1604 makes progress toward justice by reducing law enforcement officers' ability to act outside the law. It takes discipline out of backroom dealing, and encourages law enforcement agencies to codify the values they claim to represent, and forces them to back those values up with action.

Institutional indifference empowers individual bad actors. Our government has allowed law enforcement agencies too much unchecked power, and has sent the message that the State prioritizes the illusion of agency discipline over the safety of its people. We urge you to uphold the State's portion of its Constitutional social compact by ending the legalized impunity by which our own Constitutionally-sworn officers continue to violate Oregonians rights to "peace, safety, and happiness." SB 1604 will play an important role in addressing the crisis of police violence in Oregon. **We urge you to vote YES.**

Yours in solidarity,



The Young Democrats of Oregon

<p>Austin Abel, Hood River          Caroline Adams, Snohomish          Kalea Adams, Medford          Chris Ade, Portland          Janice Aiello, Portland          Kathleen Albrecht, The Dalles          Michael Allen, Florence          Delia Alvarez, Salem          Jaden Arbuckle, Portland          Carine Arendes, Tigard          Hannah Jane Argento, Eugene          Sara Argento-McCurdy, Portland          Arlene Aron, Medford          Angelo Arrredondo, Salem          Jeanne Atkins, Portland          Angelica Avellaneda, Portland          Aiyanna Baker, Portland          Maddie Baker, Boring          Abby Bartles, Hood River          Cinthya Bautista, Sandy          Haley Mae Belnap, Eugene          Emma Berens, Hood River          Claire Bjornson, Salem          Tiffany Arita Partridge Blake, Salem          Grace Bliesnwr, Welches          Elijah Michael Bliss, Gresham          Jodi Blue, Forest Grove          Nina Bockius, Hood River          Safiya Braylor, Portland          Savanna Brentlinger, Hood River          Lucy Brockman, Portland          Charlotte Bromham, Hood River          Emily Burns, Eugene          Griffin Cameron, Eugene          Emmanuel Castaneda, Hood River          Salvador Castañeda Jr., Beaverton          Julio Castilleja, Corbett</p>	<p>Alatasi Clancy, Springfield          Betsy Cletus, Salem          Gavin Coble, Canby          Michael Cojocar, Portland          Rosa Colquitt, Tigard          Cornelia Connell, Portland          Leslie Cordova, Salem          Stacie Cunningham, Portland          Nina Dabit, Portland          Maggie Daniels, Eden Prairie          Karin Dean, Vancouver          Nicole Dean, Portland          Libby Di Bartolomeo, Astoria          Sadie Dorsey, Lebanon          Joshua Elliott, Portland          Lyric Emmons, Hood River          Emma Empol, Jacksonville          Ira Erbs, Portland          Lisa Erenstein, Lafayette          Holly Fasel, Forest Grove          Kathryn Feise, Portland          Melissa Fey, Salem          Jane Filiault, Lake Oswego          Melissa Fireside, Lake Oswego          Emily Fortin, Gresham          Amy Fox, Portland          Michelle Franco, Portland          Dhani Freeland, Eugene          Lil Frey, Eugene          Adriana Galvez, Parkdale          Lily Goldman, Hood River          Evelyn Gomez, Gresham          Sophie Goodwin-Rice, Newport          Debbie Gordon, Portland          Sala Grady, Eugene          Emma Graham, Portland          Dariana Granados, Gresham          Carrie Greason, Forest Grove          Sam Guy, Portland          Jen Hamilton, Portland          Connor Heffernan, Portland          Jil Heimensen, Portland          Zoe Herrild, Portland</p>
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