



Letter in support of Oregon Police Accountability bills HB 4207; HB 4201; 4205; and 4203.
Joint Interim Committee on the First Special Session of 2020.
June 25, 2020

Co-Chairs Senate President Courtney and Speaker Kotek; and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Everytown for Gun Safety and Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America in support of several bills in Oregon.

Black people are the victims of police shootings at a disproportionate rate and are nearly three times as likely to be shot and killed by police than white people. Police violence is gun violence and we must fight the toxic combination of systemic racism, America's gun culture and the decades long militarization of law enforcement that has resulted in the tragic death of so many - particularly Black Americans.

We support the following policies currently under consideration by this committee:

HB 4207: *Directs Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to establish statewide database of police officer discipline records.*

HB 4201: *Requires law enforcement agency to notify Attorney General when police officer uses physical force resulting in death or qualifying physical injury.*

HB 4205: *Directs Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to adopt rules requiring police officer to intervene to stop another police officer from engaging in act that is unethical or that violates law, rules or policy.*

- Everytown for Gun Safety believes that this policy could be improved if the term "unethical" be defined and that the scope of circumstances in which officers are required to intervene be clarified to include instances of unjustified use-of-force.
- Additionally, we would suggest that the language provide stricter standards for use-of-force. **Law enforcement must be barred from using deadly force except when absolutely necessary to prevent death or serious bodily harm, and only after exhausting other means.**

HB 4203: *Provides that peace officer may not use force that limits ability of person to breathe, including but not limited to choke holds.*

- Everytown for Gun Safety believes that this policy could be improved if **there are clear mechanisms to investigate and enforce violations, including a defined** penalty for those officers that violate the prohibition on using this type of force.

We urge you to vote yes on these bills. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Emily Walton
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