

Greetings,

Thank you for your timely manner in considering these bills. I strongly support these bills. This is a good start to preventing and stopping systematic racism that occurs in our communities.

Please vote to support HB 4201, which requires certain injuries and deaths caused by the police to be reported to the Attorney General. I believe that it is necessary to have more specific police oversight, transparency and accountability. This bill would help with that oversight.

Please vote to support HB 4203, which disallows police to use force to restrict someone's breathing using a chokehold, or other method. In light of the loss of life of Eric Garner, George Floyd, Carlos Ingram-Lopez, Tony Timpa, and others, there is no reason that police should use such a method when interacting with the public. As a special education teacher, I am saddened to watch countless videos where police use so much force to "de-escalate" a situation or calm someone down. Excessive force does not de-escalate a child (nor are educators ever allowed to use any force on a child), why would it be used with an adult, with whom one can use a variety of other strategies to de-escalate them. Never ever should a policeman, a public servant, attempt to choke a civilian or restrict their breathing.

Please vote to support HB 4205, which requires a police officer to intervene when they see another cop engaging in an "act that is unethical, or violates laws, rules, or policy". With this idea that there are "bad apples" in the police department, the only way to transform the "bad apples" or to get them out of the department, would require that the "good apples" do something instead of leaving the "bad apples" to continue their behavior.

Please vote to support HB 4207, which establishes a state-wide database of police disciplinary records and makes it public. This database could help with the accountability of the police department. As a Eugene community member, I want to know about the police with which I may be interacting with, as well as, knowing if our police department is hiring on individuals with questionable behaviors.

Please vote to support HB 4208, which prohibits the use of tear gas and sonic weapons. The use of tear gas violates the Geneva Convention and should NOT be used on civilians! For the past several weeks I have seen countless videos of protestors being engulfed by tear gas, including in Eugene. A journalist was even tear gassed, even though he identified himself, and the police just laughed. I also disagree that police should be using tear gas on civilians who are heading home because a curfew was put into place with only a few minutes to get indoors. This is unacceptable and even looks as though the curfew was set up in such a way so that the police got to do what they wanted (which was to use tear gas on civilians they deemed as "bad people" not following curfew). In addition, please consider adding that police not use rubber bullets on protestors either! People, who were protesting peacefully, have been shot at with rubber bullets, leading to injuries, some of which led to losing their eye. The police are presenting themselves as a militaristic force that is not serving the community that they are working for. They are terrorizing their community, and that must stop.

Let us stand up together and be a community that is proud to be Americans because our actions show that we believe that All people are equal (including Black lives), all have a right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email, Rebecca Hauge