

Dear Joint Committee on Police Transparency and Use of Force Reform,

I've heard that in the upcoming special legislative session, the focus is going to be on budget shortfalls and coronavirus, but we need to keep pushing for police reform and change now. These bills should not be waiting until 2021 - they should be brought to the floor of the Oregon Legislature now.

I am also disappointed to note that qualified immunity does not seem to be under discussion by the Joint Committee. Qualified immunity is a dangerous policy that allows police to escape accountability and not take their own actions as seriously as they should. I would like to see the Joint Committee recommend, as soon as possible, that we end qualified immunity in Oregon.

I hope that you will do whatever is in your power to encourage the legislature to take up the issues before the Joint Committee in this legislative session. Also: I hope that tear gas and anything which affects the lungs and throat be banned entirely as soon as possible. All of the statements and laws so far addressing tear gas and similar chemical irritants have allowed for clauses like "except in case of a riot" or "unless there is the danger of loss of life," and the police have repeatedly used these vague requirements to declare a riot and gas and attack innocent people. The police should NEVER be using chemical weapons on people in Oregon, doubly so during a respiratory illness pandemic. It is unconscionable.

We must do more to hold police accountable. We need vastly stronger restrictions on police use of force and requirements for de-escalation. And police should never, never be attacking entire crowds of people - innocent people will always be hurt when this happens.

This cannot wait until 2021. We need real change now.

Thanks for your time,

Daniel Bullard-Bates

Portland, OR 97266

