

I fully support SB 621. Decades of experience in Portland have shown that the collective bargaining agreements between the PPA and the City of Portland have misused the arbitration process and impeded the ability of oversight organizations to gather information relevant to the needed accountability of any public safety agency. Yes, unions are important and have a needed place in modern society, but--it has been observed--anything beneficial can be misused. When the misuse of labor-management agreements leads to the consistently egregious inability of a community to hold its public safety officers accountable, something has to change. And that's where we find ourselves today. SB 621 is a step in the right direction and must be supported.