

I support Sen. Manning's requested HB 3355. Last year's experience in Portland of anonymous police officers engaging in behavior of dubious legality demonstrated a gap in the minimum standards of professional accountability. Public safety officers, having taken an oath of responsibility, must meet high standards of accountability because of the privileges they are granted in order to serve. Even if an officer believes that they were obeying legitimate orders, identification of that officer is necessary in order to trace the chain of command and determine who issued those orders and whether the officer's behavior was consistent with those orders. While we wish, given what happened last year, that this bill would apply to federal officers, we understand the reason that it does not; this inability is somewhat mollified by the knowledge that a repeat of such federal officer behaviors is unlikely in the near term future and that any agency not in compliance with the terms of this bill could be identified as federal by its noncompliance.