



May 11, 2021

Senate Committee on Judiciary and
Ballot Measure 110 Implementation
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and members of the committee,

My name is Dr. Reginald Richardson, and I am the president of the Salem-Keizer NAACP. I am writing in support of House Bill 3355 to require identification on uniforms of law enforcement officers working in crowd management and require them to provide identifying information when asked by a member of the public.

Starting last summer, when protests for racial justice were being held continually throughout Oregon, participants and observers noticed that law enforcement at these events were not displaying identification on their uniforms. In some cases, they purposely obscured it. This has been documented multiple times by ACLU Oregon.

This is an unacceptable move away from transparency and accountability. Officers who do not display identifying information make it difficult, if not impossible, for event participants to report them when they act improperly. This became especially important during last summer's protests when police often used excessive force toward protesters. By not wearing or obscuring their identifying information, officers are sending the message that they plan to use violence or unacceptable force without accountability. Requiring law enforcement to wear identifying information in a more uniform and readable way will be a huge step toward protecting our citizens from police impropriety.

Additionally, this bill requires that law enforcement agencies must attempt to provide an officer's identity to members of the public when those members request it using some of the officer's identifying information. This is important for day-to-day incidents, particularly involving people of color, so that citizens are not harmed or taken advantage of with no recourse against the officers who harmed them.

We urge you to hold police accountable and protect Oregonians by passing this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reginald C. Richardson, Sr.', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Reginald C. Richardson, Sr.
President
Salem-Keizer NAACP