

I have lived in Portland since 1998. I worked for the City of Portland for five years, and served on the executive board of AFSCME Local 189. So, I understand the push and pull of transparency and public accountability vs privacy of public service workers. Not all public employees are the same, they should not have the same standards of transparency.

Law enforcement are entrusted with the state monopoly of violence. They are armed and are given discretion to use deadly force. This responsibility should bring with it more stringent standards of transparency and accountability.

Too often police officers or sheriffs will leave a position with one law enforcement agency with a record of misconduct, and take up a position with a new law enforcement agency, in a new unknowing community. We need to short-circuit this game of musical chairs of bad actors. The new community should have the right to look into the disciplinary record of any new hire in order to protect themselves and hold their public safety officials to account for their hiring decisions.

Police misconduct is a crisis. A crisis that will no longer be tolerated by the public. I urge you to support HB 2929 and Amendment 4A to bring the required transparency to the situation, so that it may be rectified. Please also consider strengthening this legislation by removing the "technical infractions" loophole.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Josef Schneider