

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

I am a mother, health care provider, and small business owner in Portland. I am writing to ask you to vote yes on HB 2396 to ensure we have a police workforce in Oregon that can protect and serve all Oregonians. There is no place for racism in a profession that holds so much power, even the power of life or death, over Oregon residents. It is past time for there to be more care taken in checking that potential police officers do not participate in actions or promote beliefs that endanger Black, Indigenous, and other people of color. This bill is necessary to ensure that police officers in Oregon are fit to serve.

Please vote yes on this bill and refer it to the Senate with a do-pass recommendation. Thank you,

Catherine Akerson Bailey