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The biggest problem with these types of legislation the Oregon House Judiciary Subcommittee On Equitable Policing has under consideration is that they're built on the false premises that law enforcement officers obey the law and that if they just get more training the brutality and already criminal behavior by law enforcement officers will end. But, police officers only enforce laws. [They don't obey them.](#)

Portland Police Bureau officers repeatedly [violated](#) a court order forbidding them from shooting impact munitions at nonviolent protesters. They're still shooting impact munitions at nonviolent protesters. They were instructed by Police Commissioner Edward Tevis "Ted" Wheeler not to use tear gas. They continued to use tear gas.

Seattle Police violated a court order limiting the department's use of pepper spray and blast balls during Black Lives Matter protests [again](#) and [again](#) and [again](#).

[Lethal chokeholds are still used](#) repeatedly to kill Black people, even when [states pass legislation forbidding them](#), even when [police departments](#) adopt policies prohibiting their use.

Police routinely violate [department policies](#) to kill and maim civilians, especially BIPOC, and often face minimal, if any, penalties.

And, these are just a few examples. You can't reform a [historically white supremacist](#) institution by requiring the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to adopt rules ([House Bill 2932](#)) prohibiting police and reserve officers from participating in white supremacist and militant groups and demonstrating overt and explicit expressions of racism. There's nothing in that bill to keep bullies, domestic violence perpetrators, sexual offenders, etc. off the police forces where they now serve. Legislation to require psychological screening creates no meaningful change if it does not specify any traits, besides racism, that would prevent someone from being certified as a police officer.

In addition, each and every single one of these bills before the Oregon House Judiciary Subcommittee On Equitable Policing include the words "except" or "unless" (with the exception of HB2936, which just directs rules to be written and those rules will include enough "except" and "unless" to make them toothless). [Cops lie](#). They're trained [to lie](#). They are legally allowed to

[lie](#) under some circumstances. And they do so by [default](#). They enjoy [lying](#). They will lie to justify their violations of any legislation passed that includes an "except" or an "unless". They will memorize those exceptions and will always have their justifications ready.

Some of these bills under consideration only pretend to be about reform. For example, if [House Bill 2932](#) passes "The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission shall establish a statewide database of reports of the use of physical force by peace officers and corrections officers. The database must be searchable and available to the public. The **commission shall substitute an individual randomized number for an officer's certification number**" (emphasis mine).

Portland Police discovered this freedom from accountability last summer when they removed their badge numbers and names from their uniforms so they could not be identified in the video showing them beating, shooting, and gassing protesters, throwing them onto the ground and piling on top of them. What is the point of collecting information about violent officers if they can't be identified?

And, then of course, there's [House Bill 2943](#) which will make it even more difficult to discipline repeat offenders, police officers who even prosecutors do not trust to give unbiased or honest testimony. By not allowing departments to use evidence that law enforcement officers cannot be trusted, HB 2943 protects those offending officers from disciplinary actions when they kill, maim, and brutalize civilians.