

Dear Senators,

My name is Kate Sattler. I'm a Portland resident. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I understand SB 808 would diversify Commission membership, which I wholly support. Thank you for proposing and hearing it. I respectfully urge you to pass it.

Looking at the draft [Narrative Guide to the Statewide Law Enforcement Standards of Conduct and Discipline](#) (which includes disciplinary matrices) that was approved by the Commission in January, it's clear that adding community representatives is necessary — though that need itself is confounding.

I don't understand why Law Enforcement Officers, whose job is literally to enforce the law, are not committing to do so when their colleagues and subordinates engage in harmful illegal behavior.

I don't understand why "mitigating factors" such as personal hardship, admission of guilt, or previous good conduct would be factored into disciplinary decisions for such illegal and violent acts as sexual assault.

And I don't understand why a law enforcement officer who racially discriminates, assaults someone, or uses excessive force that kills someone would be allowed to remain on the job — and, further, that they could potentially receive just a written reprimand in response.

If I understand correctly, Rules allowing for the scenarios described above have already been approved by the Commission — which to date has been exclusively or primarily comprised of LEOs.

Law enforcement officers' demonstrated commitment to public safety is paramount to ensuring Oregonians' safety and trust. They should be held to equal or higher standards than the people they serve. At a minimum, they should be required to follow the law to remain employed in such a capacity and I believe statewide disciplinary standards should reflect that.

If law enforcement officers don't all recognize the harmful effect that such disparate application of the law has on public safety and trust then it's even more crucial to have community members on the Commission who do. That's why I support SB 808.

I also support and appreciate this broader effort to ensure consistent, rigorous statewide standards and accountability for law enforcement. Thank you so much for your time and for your leadership on this issue.

Respectfully,

Kate Sattler