

Submitter: Lizzy Utterback
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB808

Hello Senators,

My name is Lizzy Utterback and I live in Springfield, Oregon. I am writing in support of the changes presented in SB 808. I first remember hearing about police brutality when I was in high school and then went on to experience some of these problems first and second hand in multiple states. Over the years the problem seems to have gotten worse and often deadly. I'm sure you are aware of some of the high profile brutality cases in Springfield, the city I now call home.

As you can imagine, it was alarming to me to learn that there aren't federal, let alone state standards for policing. Most of the jobs I've held during my professional career have been administrative in nature but still have had codes of conduct and guides for best practice. It is commendable that legislation has been put before you to establish similar guidelines for law enforcement in Oregon and that you are revisiting the issue with the changes proposed in SB 808.

This process isn't without its challenges as I'm sure you very well know. When the commission was first established, I noticed the commission membership didn't require any members that identify as victims of police violence (or family members of victims), healthcare providers such as counselors or therapists, or general members of the community that aren't law enforcement affiliated. It seems to me the purpose of the commission is to ensure statewide standards which will in turn offer protection to the general public, but the commission includes few members of the public.

I witnessed the commission's discussions that didn't take into account the concerns raised through public testimony from the general public and I have to wonder whether the discussions may have been different if the makeup of the commission had included more people like myself and people who are subject to the very conduct we are trying to discourage.

I am glad to see the changes proposed with SB 808 and encourage you to take it a step further and require that the commission membership include victims of police violence or family members of victims and healthcare providers such as licensed counselors or therapists as these individuals uniquely understand the consequences of police violence.

Thank you for your consideration,
Lizzy Utterback

Springfield Resident
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