

Submitter: Jen Smith
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB808

Hello Senators,

My name is Jen Smith and I am a resident of Eugene, Oregon. I am writing in support of SB 808. I was shocked to learn that previously 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. Isn't the purpose of the commission is to ensure statewide standards which will in turn offer protection to the general public? The commission includes few members of the public. How can equitable standards that are acceptable to Oregon residents be created, if the general public is not adequately represented? The commission includes so many law enforcement affiliated people, including even the police labor union rep.

I approve of the changes proposed with SB 808, but I don't think it is enough. I encourage you to take it further and require that the commission membership also include victims of police violence (or family members of victims), and healthcare providers such as licensed counselors/therapists. These individuals uniquely understand the consequences of police violence.

We have a severe lack of accountability for police misconduct, and currently police labor unions have an overwhelming influence on policy. A common sense review of statewide police 'code of conduct' and disciplinary policies means that the general public and the victims require a seat at the table.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,
Jen Smith
Eugene Resident