

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, Senator Gelser Blouin, Senator Linthicum, and Senator Manning, Jr.,

My name is Barbara Kenny, I have a doctorate in electrical engineering, a 30 plus year career in federal government, and I'm a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel. But none of that makes any difference; I've joined the [hundreds of bereaved family members](#) across Oregon who've unnecessarily lost a loved one to police violence. My child, Stacy Kenny was beaten, tased, shot and killed by four Springfield police officers while unarmed, seat-belted in his car, and on the phone with 911. This Friday, March 31, 2023, is the fourth anniversary of Stacy's death.

The subsequent investigation was conducted by the Lane County Interagency Deadly Force Investigation Team, IDFIT. One of the active investigators on the team was an officer from the Springfield Police Department itself. One of the IDFIT supervisors had previously been the officer in two "officer-involved-shootings," one with a [death](#). The DA and the Springfield Police Chief conducted a [joint press conference](#) announcing that the Springfield shooting was non-criminal under Oregon law. The full pre-shooting brutality, that included trying to pull my seat-belted, unarmed child out of a broken car window by his hair and two officers simultaneously tasing him for multiple cycles, was not discussed nor investigated. Once I understood the totality of the incident, it was clear to me that the investigation and the subsequent press conference were neither unbiased nor fair.

As part of our settlement agreement with the City of Springfield (the largest in state's history), we commissioned an [independent critical incident review](#) by OIR Group. This review and a subsequent [addendum](#) describe multiple flaws with the investigation into my child's death. These flaws are not limited to Lane County; OIR Group recently completed a review with similar findings in the case of [Jacob Macduff](#), killed by Tigard police in 2021, whose death was investigated by the Washington County Major Crimes Team.

I support SB 915 because I hope a state level Prosecutions Unit, staffed with investigators and prosecutors who do not have close professional and/or personal relationships with those involved, would provide a more fair, unbiased and transparent investigation into these tragic events. I also hope that an independent unit would provide a more transparent and accurate rendering of the totality of the incident when reporting on the findings to the family and the public. Without a full and fair investigation, independent prosecution, and full disclosure of the results, there is no justice for the family, there is no accountability for the department responsible, and there is no end to these preventable, and unnecessary, tragedies.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.