

February 1, 2026

Good morning, Chair Taylor, Vice-chair Hayden and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Buck Ruiz, and I work for the Portland Police Bureau.

I have worked as an Identification Technician with the Portland Police Bureau for the last 10 years. For the last few years, I have worked as the Lead Identification Technician on Night Shift. During this time, I have been exposed to a variety of situations that I feel were beyond the norm of general job expectations.

In 2020, Portland experienced many protests related to police accountability. These protests were quite large and lasted for several months. Each night these protests would escalate to a very intense level, usually starting around the time I came into work.

Each night our building was surrounded by hundreds to thousands of people who were frustrated by police action. While I understood the sentiment, it meant that each night I would have to navigate a highly combative crowd just to enter the building. I would arrive at work early, dressed in all black, and try to blend into the crowd so I could slowly approach our building.

I would often have to quickly dart into our secure doors whenever I found a break in the crowd. As I would enter the building people would often throw rocks, feces, or raw meat in my direction. Most nights our doors were covered with some form feces or raw meat mixture. I would bring gloves with me each night so I could quickly slip them on to open the doors to avoid the contaminants.

After doing this type of work for several years, I am still constantly surprised by the actions taken by various subjects. This job can be exceptionally stressful at times. My position requires that I constantly encounter situations that I feel are unsafe. For brevity I have not included countless events that have occurred while working in this position, nearly every week I encounter hostile inmates, various forms of health hazards and emotional stressors that are quite out of the ordinary.

I support SB 1569 because the physical and emotional toll of my job is no different than other PERS Police and Fire roles. Our peers elsewhere in the state already receive this recognition; we are simply asking for the same standard.

Respectfully,

Buck Ruiz

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