

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

For the record, my name is Ed Tynan, and I am a Police Identification Technician with the Portland Police Bureau, where I have served for nearly eleven years.

In my role, I regularly work inside the Multnomah County Jail under conditions that are often unsafe. My duties involve constant exposure to human waste, extreme noise, verbal abuse, threats, and aggressive inmate behavior. I have experienced multiple attempted physical assaults and repeated incidents in which my workspace was intentionally flooded with sewage. These conditions take a significant mental and physical toll.

The dangers I face while fingerprinting adults in custody are comparable to those faced by sworn officers already covered under PERS Police and Fire. We work in the same secure facilities, face many of the same risks, and are regularly exposed to volatile situations. However, unlike sworn staff, we do not carry the same protective equipment or tools, which can leave us even more vulnerable when incidents occur. Extending coverage recognizes the reality of the work performed and supports employee safety, retention, and fairness for those serving in these environments.

Recognizing these risks through SB 1569 would help ensure that employees performing essential public safety functions inside correctional facilities receive protections consistent with the hazards and the demands of the profession they face. This support is important for maintaining morale, recruiting qualified personnel, and retaining experienced staff needed to safely and efficiently operate our criminal justice system.

For these reasons of fairness, safety, and operational necessity, I respectfully urge the committee to support SB 1569 and vote yes on this bill.

Respectfully,

Edward Tynan  
Gresham, Oregon