

January 30, 2026

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

For the record, my name is Jennifer Griffo, and I am Police Identification Technician with the Portland Police Bureau.

I have worked at the Portland Police Bureau Forensic Evidence Division since January of 2023. While in jail I fingerprint arrestees and I'm faced with the risk of violence as well as contact with bodily fluids, and mental anguish.

In jail there's a wide variety of people who have been arrested for a myriad of crimes. Some of the people are calm, but others are violent, upset, yelling, and flailing. Many of the people are unhoused or have mental health issues. Some arrestees come in not having showered for days or weeks, if not longer. This can lead to them being covered in bugs, feces, urine, lice, and having a foul odor. We see the arrestees before they get to see the medical staff, so we can possibly be exposed to COVID, MRSA, hepatitis, HIV, Staph, etc.

I hold their hands to fingerprint them, so we are standing side by side, often with no one else around, as the deputies are booking in other people or doing other tasks. This puts me at risk because arrestees are very unpredictable.

I urge your support for SB 1569. The environment of working in a jail doesn't change based on your job title and the risks of fingerprinting are as real and taxing as any other PERS Police and Fire position. This legislation recognizes that the 'front line' includes everyone working inside these walls, bringing us in line with the retirement standards already set by our peers statewide.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Griffo

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